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Government denies radiation threat
AMMAN (Petra) — The ministers of health and energy on Saturday denied press reports that residents of southern Jordan were threatened by radiation emanating from the Israeli nuclear plant at Dimona. Briefing a cabinet session, health minister Aref Bataineh said news reports that residents of the area may suffer from disease resulting from radiation poisoning were baseless. Dr. Bataineh said statistics about diseases in the area were like those about other areas of the kingdom. He also said that cancer cases in the south were also as in other parts of the kingdom. He said radioactivity in the area was also within international standards. Energy and mineral resources minister Samih Darwazah reassured the cabinet that the ministry has modern equipment to detect and measure radioactivity. He said an abnormal radioactivity was detected in the south. Israel's Dimona plant is located in the Negev desert, 60 kilometers from the city of Talleh, in its regular session, the cabinet heard briefings by the ministers of water and irrigation, interior and agriculture on the outcome of their recent visit to Al Rweishid and the water situation in the area.

Jordan Times
An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

King to visit Egypt Tuesday
CAIRO (R) — His Majesty King Hussein will arrive in Egypt on Tuesday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the Middle East peace process and Arab affairs, Egyptian officials said on Saturday. They said they were also expected to discuss bilateral ties. Ties between Jordan and Egypt have been steadily improving, mainly because of their support for the Middle East peace process. King Hussein's visit will bring the two leaders together for the first time since Mr. Mubarak visited Jordan earlier this year — his first trip here since the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990. The King has visited Egypt twice since the 1994-1991 crisis.

Syria accuses Israel of blocking peace
DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on Saturday accused Israel of blocking the Middle East peace process. Mr. Sharaa, speaking at the opening of the joint Syrian-Saudi committee for political and economic cooperation, said an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured in 1967, was still a condition for achieving peace with the Jewish state. "Israel has placed obstacles during the last years in the way of peace," Mr. Sharaa said. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal expressed Saudi Arabia's support for Syria's peace demands and urged an Israeli withdrawal to its pre-war borders. "We assure the necessity of Israeli withdrawal to pre-June 4, 1967 lines and the liberation of all of the Golan," Prince Saud said.

Police disperse rioting Sudanese students — T.V.
CAIRO (R) — Sudanese students rioted outside Khartoum University as president Omar Hassan Al Bashir met with another group of students inside the building, Egyptian television reported on Saturday. Diplomatic sources in Khartoum could not confirm whether the riots took place earlier on Saturday and the news broadcast from state television gave no reason for the riot or other details. The afternoon news broadcast said police fired tear gas to disperse the group which had gathered outside the university and battered the car of interior minister Brigadier Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair. Mr. Bashir suspended the meeting when the gas leaked into the conference hall, the television news said. Egypt and Sudan have been engaged in a month-long war of words since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak blamed the Sudanese government of having a band in the attempt to kill him in Addis Ababa on June 26, worsening already tense diplomatic relations.

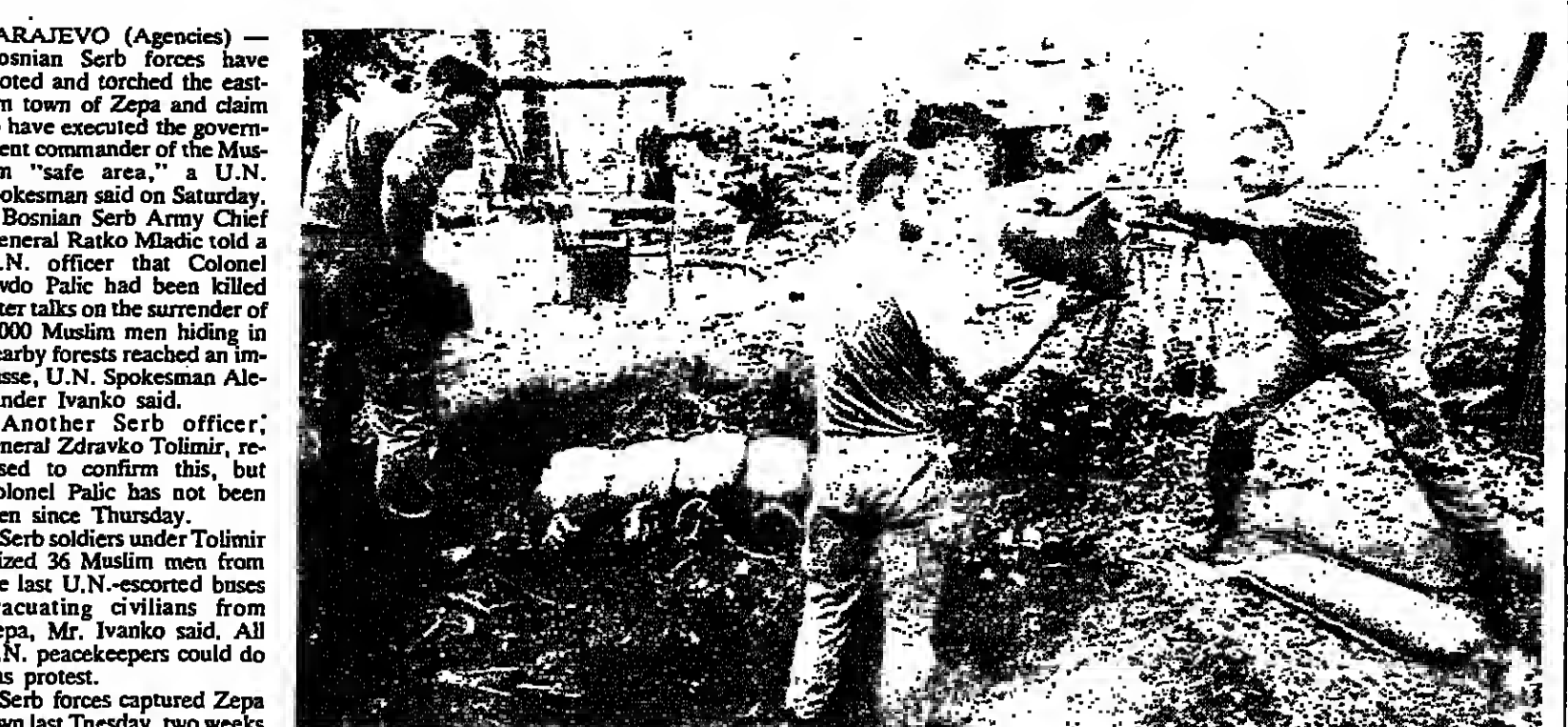
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Italy presses Tunisia to extradite ex-premier
TABARKA, Tunisia (AP) — Italy has asked Tunisia to extradite Bettino Craxi, the former Italian prime minister facing corruption charges back home, Italy's ambassador said Friday night. The 61-year-old Craxi, citing health reasons, has refused to leave Tunisia, where he took refuge in 1993 and held up in his Mediterranean seaside villa in Hammamet. Francesco Carruso, the Italian ambassador, said he expected a response from the Tunisian government "in a few days." He said Mr. Craxi will be required to go before a Tunisian court to respond to the extradition request. Mr. Craxi faces two international arrest warrants, the latest filed this month.

Turkish troops kill 8 separatist Kurds
DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish troops killed eight separatist Kurdish guerrillas in two clashes in southeast Turkey, officials said on Saturday. Seven members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were killed in a clash in Hakkari province. Troops killed another guerrilla in a clash in Van province, they said. A soldier was also killed in the incident in Hakkari, they added. More than 17,500 people have lost their lives in the PKK's 11-year-old war for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey.

Clinton continues Iraqi national emergency
WASHINGTON (USIS) — President Bill Clinton on Friday notified Congress that "because the government of Iraq has continued its activities hostile to the United States," the national emergency with respect to Iraq must continue in effect beyond August 2, 1995.

Serbs torch Zepa but face detente in W. Bosnia



French troops for the Rapid Reaction Force build a shelter near their camp in the forests of the Mount Igman (AFP photo)

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces have looted and torched the eastern town of Zepa and claim to have executed the government commander of the Muslim "safe area," a U.N. spokesman said on Saturday. Bosnian Serb Army Chief General Ratko Mladic told a U.N. officer that Colonel Avdo Palic had been killed after talks on the surrender of 3,000 Muslim men hiding in nearby forests reached an impasse, U.N. Spokesman Alexander Ivanko said. Another Serb officer, general Zdravko Tolimir, refused to confirm this, but Colonel Palic has not been seen since Thursday. Serb soldiers under Tolimir seized 36 Muslim men from the last U.N.-escorted buses evacuating civilians from Zepa, Mr. Ivanko said. All U.N. peacekeepers could do was protest. Serb forces captured Zepa town last Tuesday, two weeks after seizing the nearby U.N.-designated "safe area" of Srebrenica and purging its 40,000 Muslim civilians in a wave of "ethnic cleansing." But their successes in wiping out centuries-old Muslim settlements in eastern Bosnia have been eclipsed by a lightning Croat assault in the west. Backed by armour and artillery bombardments, Croatian government troops and allied Bosnian Croat forces swept into the Serb towns of Grahovo and Glamoč on Friday, severing a key road linking the Bosnian Serbs with Croatian Serbs in the Krajina stronghold of Knin. "Your successes are a huge step towards our joint goal of defeating the policy of the aggressor Serbs," Bosnian government commander General Rasim Delic said in a message of thanks to his Croat counterparts. Bosnian Serb army sources said the Croat forces had turned their gun-barrels eastwards and were heading for the central Bosnian towns of Jajce and Donji Vakuf which lie on a road leading north to the major Serb-held town of Banja Luka. Croat forces were also shelling villages on the approaches to Knin, the Krajina Serb army said. The United Nations was "extremely concerned" about a separate mass build-up of Croatian government forces inside Croatia to the west of Serb-held Krajina, Mr. Ivanko said. "Ten Croatian brigades had been mobilised west of Krajina, a U.N. spokesman said. A brigade normally has about 3,000 troops. The United Nations fears total war will break out in Croatia and even drag Serbia back into the conflict. Knin, the stronghold of Serb-held Krajina, is the symbol of Serb resistance to Croatia and ignited the four-year-old war across former Yugoslavia. The Krajina Serbs hold about a fifth of Croatian territory. U.N. relief officials said 13,000 Serb civilians had fled deeper into Bosnia and many were sleeping in the open. The Bosnian Serb army said a total of 20,000 Serb civilians had fled the fighting, some heading south to Krajina. The "aggressors have plundered and torched all Serb settlements in the area," a Bosnian Serb statement said. European Union (EU) peace negotiators Carl Bildt said in Sweden he saw no hope of a halt to the fighting in Bosnia in the near term and a U.N. withdrawal could not be ruled out. "I don't think the different parties are ready for a ceasefire yet, they have decided to

Israel to lift W. Bank closure before PLO talks

GAZA (Agencies) — Israel will lift the closure it clamped on the West Bank and Gaza after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed six Israelis before it resumes peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sunday, a PLO official said. Samir Ghoshe, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) member in charge of Labour, said after the authority's weekly meeting on Saturday: "Israel will lift the closure at midnight tonight." Israel imposed the closure, which sealed off some two million Palestinians, on Monday after a guerrilla blew up himself and six Israelis on a bus near Tel Aviv. The PLO and Israel would resume peace talks, broken off by Israel after the attack, in the Red Sea resort of Eilat in southern Israel on Sunday to hammer out an accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank, a PLO official said. Another PLO official who asked not to be named said the talks would be moved to an unspecified location after one week, indicating that the negotiating process would extend far beyond the already missed July 25 deadline. Following its 1993 peace deal with Israel, the PLO took control of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho from Israel in May last year but Israeli security concerns have held back an agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule. Chief PLO negotiator Ahmed Korei said: "We hope the Israeli delegation will come to the talks with more flexible formulas to try to break the deadlock." Mr. Ghosheh said the Palestinian position was insisting that Israeli troops withdraw from all West Bank towns, villages and refugee camps according to an agreed timetable. "The cabinet affirmed the Palestinian position on the need to reach on interim accord in all its components: redeployment, Palestinian elections, legal affairs, transfer of civilian powers, security arrangements and economic cooperation." PLO officials said issues under dispute with Israel focused on the extent of an Israeli troop redeployment from West Bank populated areas and the security responsibilities of Israeli and Palestinian police in the West Bank. Both sides also disagreed on whether Palestinians in East Jerusalem could participate in elections as well as the size of an elected Palestinian council which would run most aspects of life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the official said. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Saturday: "We are determined to continue the negotiations. We see in this direction the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the conflict that gives birth to terrorism." Mr. Rabin told Israeli radio he expected the PLO to make more of an effort in thwarting attacks by Muslim

Jordanian, Palestinian businessmen sign cooperation protocol

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian entrepreneurs Saturday signed a protocol on the establishment of a joint council to enhance cooperation between the private sectors in Jordan and Palestine. "It is a step to be followed up," said Samir Abdullah, head of the Arab economists society. "Enormous work is still ahead of us." The protocol, a follow-up to a previous conference in June and to a meeting that Palestinian and Jordanian businessmen had with His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat late May, aims at promoting economic ties, exchanging information and expertise and giving incentives to the private sector in both areas to initiate joint ventures, especially in preparation for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit that will be held here in October. The protocol, which was signed on Saturday by Hamdi Tabba, chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen Association and Mr. Abdullah, calls for the implementation of recommendations taken at the June meeting, especially in terms of initiating joint ventures in all fields. Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen agreed at the June conference, which grouped more than 500 Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen in Amman, to give priority for Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen while awarding infrastructure projects. They also agreed to establish a free trade zone in the Jordan Valley, initiate joint commercial exhibitions and activate trade between Jordan and Palestine. "The June meeting was the start after 28 years of absence," Mr. Abdullah said. "It puts a mechanism and now we are in the process of implementing it."

Russians, Chechens resume talks

GROZNY (R) — Russian and separatist Chechen negotiators on Saturday resumed peace talks aimed at ending seven months of fighting in the southern region and prepared to negotiate throughout the night. The fresh round of talks began several hours late after Chechen delegates arriving here said a prolegated Russian escort failed to turn up on time to deliver them to Grozny after their consultations with rebel field commanders. "We were waiting for the cars for two days. There was an official corridor we were supposed to use but it took us eight hours to get here," Chechen chief negotiator Usman Imayev told reporters. Due to the delay the talks started well after lunch. A Russian official told reporters waiting at the gates of the Grozny mission of the Organisation of the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) — the venue of talks — that negotiations would continue throughout the night. "He said the sides decided not to release any information to the press. Russian troops have taken over most of Chechnya, which unilaterally declared independence in 1991, since they entered the region in December, but the rebels still hold out in some remote mountainous areas in the south. The talks broke up on Tuesday with hopes fading that a deal would be reached on the status of Chechnya. The parties appeared keen to focus on military issues. Chechens want Moscow to recognise the north Caucasus region's independence. An agreement now under discussion on military aspects of the conflict is widely seen as crucial for holding free elections in Chechnya, planned for November.

Beilin says Israel, Syria 'approaching moment of truth' Israeli minister calls for entering into final status talks with Palestinians

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli Minister for Economy and Planning Yossi Beilin has called on Syrian President Hafez Assad to "put on the table" his requirements for a peaceful settlement with Israel, warning that the two sides "are approaching the moment of truth" at the end of 1995, before negotiations are overshadowed by elections in the United States and Israel. Mr. Beilin, speaking to the Jordan Times and the London-based Al-Hayat pan-Arab daily, stressed the need to open a dialogue with Iraq immediately after lifting the international sanctions, "as long as the regime (in Baghdad) behaves according to international norms." He pointed out that Israel "does not want to exclude" Iraq from the regional peace process, and that "it is not a personal or emotional matter with the Iraqi leadership." The Israeli minister, who is considered a controversial figure in the ruling Labour Party, said that Israel had "a solution with Syria... but no process," while it had "a process with the Palestinians... but no final solution," he stressed the need for a process with Syria that would lead to a settlement. Mr. Beilin also called for entering immediately into final status negotiations with the Palestinians, pointing out that he did not believe in having an interim period for confidence building measures. He said there was a need to "make peace" not to build confidence because "this is not a love affair. How can we build confidence as occupiers." Following are excerpts from the interview. Question: In view of the recent escalation of violence, are you going ahead with your policy of separation with the West Bank? Are you still planning to build a wall between you? Answer: We spoke about a wall, but the idea of separation is a very important issue in Israel and is always mentioned when there are terrorist attacks. But it is very difficult to implement. It is not actually a kind of divorce from the Palestinians. The idea is to have a good fence in order to have good neighbours. I must admit it is not perceived like that neither in Israel nor by the Palestinians, and I think that even if physically nothing will happen, this question of separation versus integration will always be a dilemma for Israel and its neighbours. It has been an issue for the past 28 years and will continue to be. I met a very important Jordanian colleague who told me that in the beginning there was a fear that Israel would like to dominate the region, economically speaking, and that Israel was ready perhaps to

Europeans, North Africans condemn 'terrorism'

TABARKA, Tunisia (R) — Senior officials from 11 North African and South European countries, ending two days of talks on Saturday, condemned what they called "terrorism" in the Mediterranean region and agreed to forge closer links. Foreign ministers from Algeria, Egypt, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey and representatives from Greece and Morocco — grouped in the Mediterranean Forum — met at Tunisia's northwestern resort of Tabarka. "We have agreed ... to fight this plague and condemn terrorist acts, including the last attack on (Egyptian) President (Hosni) Mubarak in Addis Ababa and the last act of terrorism in Paris," Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia, who chaired the forum, told a news conference. The meeting, the forum's third since it first met in Egypt in July 1994, was held to discuss links with a focus on regional security highlighted by a Paris metro blast in which Muslim militants are the main suspects. It also prepared for a conference between the European Union's (EU) 15 members and 12 Mediterranean countries in Barcelona in November. The Barcelona conference is part of a new strategy by the EU to avoid a spread of political violence into Europe from such countries as Algeria and Egypt. Mr. Ben Yahia said the ministers also had a "frank and deep" exchange of views on Bosnia and that they "strongly condemn the practices of ethnic cleansing there." Ministers from Arab states attending the forum, however, appeared not entirely satisfied with the assurances given by their European counterparts on how they plan to end Serb offensives in Bosnia. "The measures announced are promises... Bosnian Serb aggression must be stopped. The United Nations ... must act otherwise Muslim countries would lift the arms ban to Bosnia," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters. France's Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said the forum has agreed that there cannot be a military solution in the former Yugoslavia and Spain's Foreign Minister Javier Solana said the EU was asking Croatia to halt its offensive against the Bosnian Serbs. "I am satisfied to see that we agreed to confirm once again that there can be peace only through negotiations and talks. There can't be peace through war," Mr. De Charette said. Fears that political violence in Algeria and Egypt may spread to Europe were fuelled by this week's Paris metro blast. Mr. De Charette said he did not discuss the Paris attack ... for which we have not for the moment indications which permit us to confirm its origin," Mr. De Charette told Reuters. Mr. Ben Yahia said that beside security concerns, the issue of Libya's participation in the Barcelona conference was discussed.

minute

they ever knew

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self-rule

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, Egypt

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MARKET PRICE

Apple 1.000
Banana 0.800
Lemon 0.500
Orange 0.400
Pineapple 1.200
Rice 0.300
Soybean 0.600
Sugar 0.200
Wheat 0.100

Jerash Festival

Concert by Blassorchester Langenhagen of Germany at Artemis Steps at 9:00 p.m.

*Guem Drum Show (France), Sound & Light Theatre, Fri., 9:00 p.m.

*Concert by the Cavern Beatles of England at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

*Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Caravan of Excellence - Love" (Part II) at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

*Guem Drum Show - France at Umm Qais at 8:30 p.m.

*Classical music concert by Abbas Ali at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:45 p.m.

*Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Digger and the

Blind Prostitute" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

*Performance by Jugnu Group, Forum, Fri., 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

*Poetry recital by several Arab poets at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

*Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.)

*Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30 p.m.

*"Glory" at the American Center at 5:00 pm.

PALESTINIAN SONG FESTIVAL

*Festival of Palestinian National Songs at the Professional Association Complex, 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

*Works by Randa Qassis at the Royal Cultural Centre

*Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road.

*Display of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.

*Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina.

*Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.

*Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday addresses the opening of a workshop for women in Salt on how to conserve water (Petra photo)

Princess Basma urges women to help in drive to conserve water

SALT (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday urged women in the Balqa region to contribute to the national effort to conserve water, stressing that water shortage remains one of the most important challenges facing the society.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day workshop for women on "economising in the use of water," the Princess said that women's efforts are needed to help protect the nation's meagre water resources.

Praising the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for its continued drive to spread public awareness about water issues, Princess Basma said Jordan is grateful to the United States

Agency for International Development (USAID) and other organisations which are helping Jordan to protect its water resources and manage available supplies.

The workshop, which was organised in cooperation with USAID, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Jordan Environment Society (JES), was addressed by JEA Vice President Mohammad Masalha who said the meeting was part of the society's ongoing drive to promote water conservation public awareness in all areas of water usage.

Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said Jordan needs \$1.5 million to properly develop its water resources, but is unable to come up with the

funds on its own and could never implement the project even when funds are secured unless the ministry's efforts are backed by the public.

Dr Bani Hani said that as 50 per cent of the water supplies pumped to the public are wasted either due to leakage through old and worn out pipes and unorthodox methods of utilising water, the role of women is essential in helping to reduce water consumption.

USAID Director William Oliver told the meeting that his agency was concentrating on helping Jordan protect and develop water resources, adding that one of the best ways is to prevent their contamination.

About 50 women are attending the workshop.

Visiting U.S. investment organisation seeks to generate interest in joint ventures in Mideast

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing 15 American private sector companies led by the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) arrived in Amman Friday looking for investment opportunities in Jordan.

This is the first OPIC investment mission to the Kingdom, and comes at the end of a week-long effort in the Middle East - the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - to generate interest in joint ventures with American companies.

OPIC Executive Vice President Christopher Finn is billing the effort as a show of support for regional peace.

"We have a keen interest in the development of peace," said Mr. Finn. "President Clinton believes, and we believe, that peace and economic stability are inextricably linked. We are an integral part of U.S. foreign policy, which focuses more and more on economic development."

OPIC is an independent U.S. government agency that encourages direct American private investment in developing countries or emerging free market

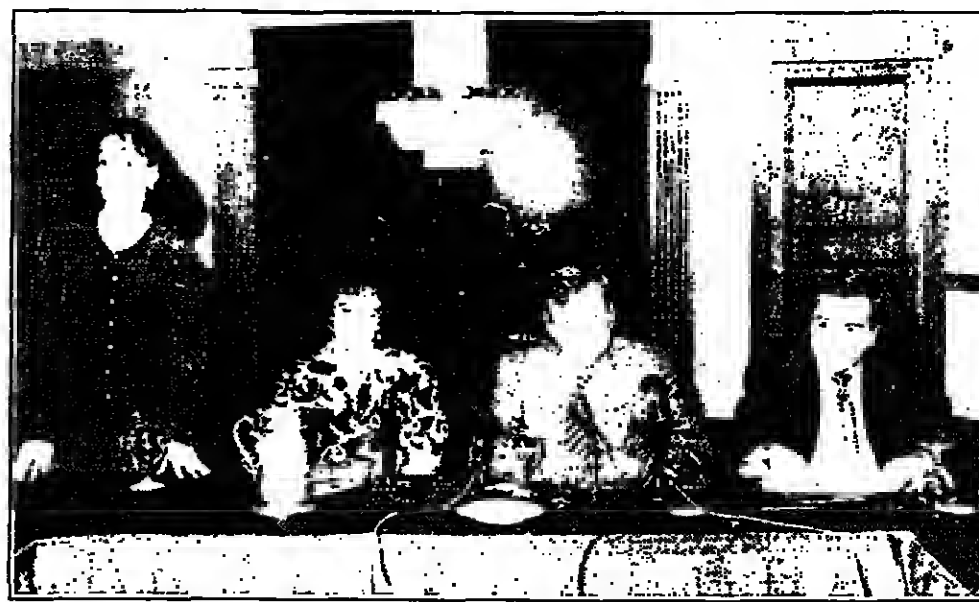
economies, primarily providing project financing through loans and loan guarantees and political risk insurance to American partners in joint ventures overseas, basically acting as a catalyst for private sector investment.

The delegation to Jordan represents a variety of sectors (including energy, construction, light manufacturing, water treatment tourism and financial services) from some of the U.S.'s most reputable companies: Bechtel, Culligan Water Technologies, Dearborn Financial, Inc., and DuPont Advanced Material Systems among others.

OPIC currently is backing private sector projects in more than 140 countries, and is prepared to back private sector investment in Jordan.

"We focus on what the private sector is willing to invest in," said delegation co-leader Susan Levine. "The fact that we have 15 companies is a signal that the private sector is willing to invest here."

"In the region, we have been very impressed," said Mr. Finn. "Entrepreneurship is alive here, and when we sit down to talk, we feel that we can get right to the heart of the matter - the return



A visiting delegation of representatives of American companies and a team from the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation Saturday hold a press conference in Amman to explain the purpose of their mission (Petra photo)

on the investment."

Mr. Finn said that OPIC will be represented at the upcoming Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit to be hosted in Amman next October.

"The president has asked OPIC to play a major role," he said. "It will be a multi-agency approach with other government agencies. We will be represented by (OPIC) President Ruth Harkin."

Accompanying the delegation is George S. Sigler, of

Sigler, Guff and Co., managers of an OPIC supported multi-million dollar equity fund that will make direct investments in private business ventures in Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

While in the region, the company will select a local adviser for Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza.

The Middle East/North Africa Regional Growth Fund, which is currently raising capital, expects to raise up to US\$250 million

from U.S. and European private investors. OPIC will be providing an investment guarantee to support the effort.

Jordan is the last stop for the investment mission, which visited the occupied territories and Israel earlier in the week.

During its visit in Jordan, the delegation will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and Jordanian businesspersons.

Draft law calls for creation of environment protection agencies

AMMAN (Petra) — The draft environment law currently before Parliament includes provision to establish three agencies that will be entrusted with protecting the environment, said Environment Department Director Saleh Share Saturday.

According to the draft law, Mr. Share said, the present environment department will be made independent of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Waste processing project to include tyre recycling, garbage separation

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality has plans to build a plant for processing waste and is seeking funds from international agencies to finance the project, according to Hussein Zaki, assistant to the mayor of Amman for health affairs.

In a statement Saturday, Dr. Zaki said that the JD 20 million plant will be a nucleus for an overall plan to deal with all waste in the Kingdom.

Work on the project should start in 1996 and be operational by 1997.

The municipality has invited the private sector to help execute the project, but a tender for its implementation has not yet been awarded, said Dr. Zaki.

Plans for implementing the project were set only after a feasibility study for the plant proved viable, Dr. Zaki said.

According to Dr. Zaki, the projected plant will treat 2,000 tonnes of waste daily, as well as produce 600 tonnes of organic material to be used as fertilisers which are needed to enrich the soil, help green Jordan, and combat desertification.

Fertilisation products will be sold at a nominal price not exceeding JD 6 a tonne, he added.

The plant will also be able to separate iron, aluminium, glass, plastic and paper to be sold to Jordanian industries.

Dr. Zaki disclosed that the municipality has undertaken a study for ridding the country of waste tyres which are littered along the main roads and around towns.

He said that the municipality plans to recycle used tyres and use them to asphalt roads and for other purposes.

The municipality is studying the prospect of involving citizens in the process of separating waste materials at home and at the commercial centres.

There will be a trial plan applied in one area of Amman in the first stage before application by other areas in the capital, Dr. Zaki said.

Election result in Wahadneh proves success of women's movement, says Princess Basma

WAHADNEH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday said that the July 11 municipal elections were the embodiment of democracy, and the election of the first woman mayor in Jordan opens a new page in the country's history by highlighting Jordanian women's successes.

Addressing a public rally attended by Iman Futeimat, the first woman mayor of Wahadneh, and deputies from the Irbid Governorate, the Princess said she was proud of the men and women of that town for electing the first woman mayor in the country, and she urged them to unite in their efforts to improve municipal services, construction and development.

For her part Ms. Futeimat pledged that the municipal council members will exert their utmost efforts towards serving the town's residents and announced that the main street in the town will be named after Princess Basma in recognition of her efforts to promote the status of Jordanian women and for opening the local community

centre.

Later Princess Basma attended a meeting by the municipal council which discussed several projects to be carried out. She pointed out the need for cooperation with the local community and the concerned government departments to ensure the success of these endeavours.

The Princess laid the foundation stone for the youth club which is being built by the Ministry of Youth and announced a donation of JD 5,000 to the project from the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

Princess Basma formally inaugurated the community centre, the 45th to be set up by QAF in Jordan.

The centre will offer social services to the local community, mainly benefiting women and children, with a special wing accommodating 80 children and sections for training women in typing and dress-making.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday lays the foundation stone for the youth club in Wahadneh, which is being built by the Ministry of Youth (Petra photo)

Seminar seeks to outline poultry industry problems

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a long-term plan aimed at promoting the poultry industry, increasing production and dealing with poultry disease, said Ministry Secretary General Ghalib Abu Orabi Saturday.

Addressing the opening session of a two-week training seminar on poultry diseases, Mr. Abu Orabi said that while Jordan is producing table eggs in surplus of local market needs, production of poultry meat is still not entirely sufficient.

In 1994 Jordan's poultry production was estimated at 94,000 tonnes, 2,000 less than the required amounts, while table egg production was 870 million eggs, 32 million in surplus of local need.

By comparison Jordan's production of red meat was 16,000 tonnes, while the country's needs were estimated at 46,654 tonnes annually, said Mr. Abu Orabi.

The poultry industry contributes substantially to the national economy, Mr. Abu Orabi said, with 2,138 poultry farms producing poultry and 177 poultry farms for producing table eggs in the country.

Mr. Abu Orabi said that according to the new plans, the ministry will regularly inspect these farms, provide guidance and assistance and will locate qualified staff as close as possible to these farms to deal more efficiently with production problems.

Organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Arab Organisa-



Participants to the opening of a two-week training seminar on poultry industry problems listen to a speaker discuss the production situation in Jordan (Petra photo)

tion for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the seminar was attended by 25 veterinarians, agricultural engineers and technicians from the ministry's various departments as well as the private sector.

AOAD Director General Abdul Hamid Kayed outlined the organisation's plans for promoting the poultry industry of the Arab

World and in ensuring food security.

The two-week seminar will also seek to train cadres on the subject of poultry, Mr. Kayed said.

A GTZ official attending the meeting outlined the assistance his agency has been providing to promote agricultural development in Jordan and estimated the assistance at a cost of about JD 703,000.

Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels send children into fight — army

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan Armed Forces celebrated their biggest victory over Tamil Tiger rebels Saturday and accused the guerrillas of sending young girls and boys to their deaths in the front line.

More than 180 bodies of guerrillas had been recovered after the rebels launched an abortive raid on four north-eastern military bases Friday, a military spokesman said.

State radio said many more bodies of rebels had been seen strewn along the beach near the fishing village of Kokilai in the Welioya area. It put the likely final death toll for the guerrillas — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — at more than 300.

Only one home guard and one soldier were killed in the raids, the military said. Eighteen soldiers were wounded.

Tiger Radio, silent about the attack until Friday evening, said the LTTE had lost 50 cadres.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said the troops were well prepared for the assault but he was appalled at the number of children killed in the enemy front lines.

"There were young girls and boys in large numbers," he told Reuters Saturday.

"There is no respect of human life on their side. We can't sacrifice human lives like that."

State radio quoted Welioya area commander Brigadier Janaka Perera as describing the 12-hour battle as the greatest victory scored by the military since the beginning of the war against the LTTE in 1983.

Troops were conducting a huge clearing operation Saturday and handing over bodies to the International Committee of the Red Cross in the north-central town of Vavuniya.

About 3,000 Tigers were involved in the attack on the military detachments at Kokilai, Jaukapura, Jayasingapura and Kokkuduvai, military sources said.

Brig. Munasinghe said the armed forces, which had received intelligence of an impending attack, hoped for more successes like this but could not be complacent.

"It doesn't mean the LTTE will refrain from more attacks," said Brig. Munasinghe, who has been stationed in the area and is familiar with the terrain. He described the battle as a "good lesson" for the LTTE.

State radio said the Tiger dead included three women suicide bombers who exploded in balls of fire when shot by the troops.

The Tigers had cut off electricity to the Welioya army headquarters, but a back-up generator had switched on automatically and rebels

were caught in the perimeter floodlights, it said.

In a separate incident in the east, two soldiers were killed and eight wounded Saturday when Tigers attacked an army post guarding a bridge southwest of Batticaloa, Brig. Munasinghe said. The LTTE suffered "heavy casualties," he said.

Tigers earlier attacked a joint police-army patrol south of Indigollewa in Anuradhapura district killing one policeman and wounding four soldiers, he said.

The LTTE is fighting for a homeland for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils in the north and east in a war that has cost more than 50,000 lives.

Friday's attacks followed leads to the press of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's peace package offering widespread devolution to Tamils.

The LTTE was left out of the negotiating process after it scuppered a truce on April 19 and resumed hostilities.

The Tigers launched their raids Friday as the armed forces prepared to resume their Operation Leap Forward offensive in the LTTE's Jaffna peninsula stronghold in the north. The military said it had captured 78 square kilometres of rebel territory.

The Tigers launched their last major attack on the army on Mandaitivu Island off Jaffna on June 28, killing almost 100 soldiers in what

was described as a great military success.

Meanwhile, an American arrested for alleged links with Tamil separatists was deported Friday.

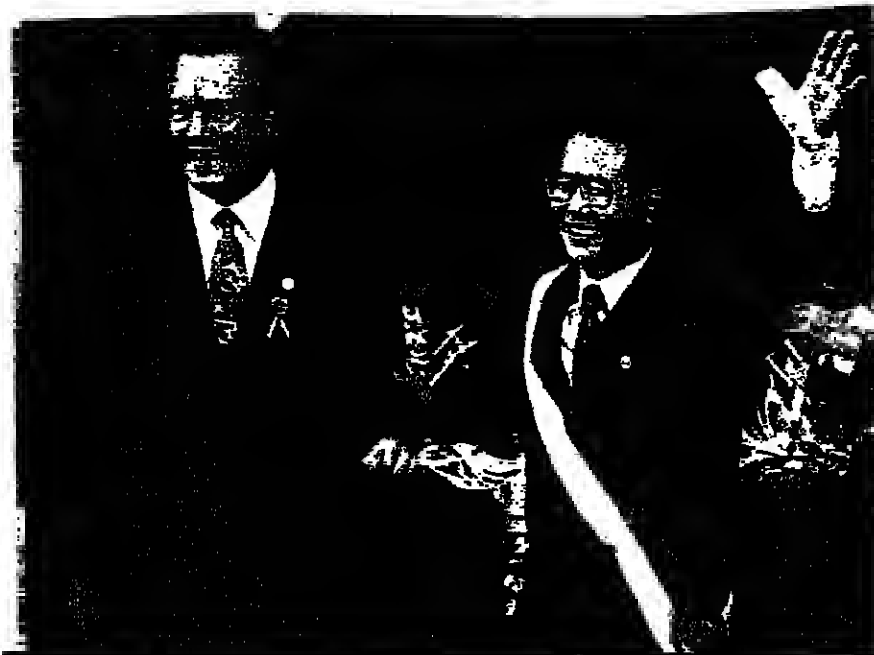
Kenneth Mulder, 26, from the state of Michigan, had worked with the National Christian Council in Colombo, a group of churches providing relief to areas hit by the fighting between the military and Tamil Tiger rebels in Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war.

Mr. Mulder was arrested on July 21 by the military while trying to enter a rebel-held area in the north.

"Mulder was put aboard an Airlanka flight to Zurich in the early hours of this morning," said J.A. Ariyaseena, the head of the Department of Immigration. He was expected to take an American Airlines flight from Zurich to New York.

"In the interest of good relations with the United States, we decided to expel him rather than prosecute him," said U.N. Kotakadeniya, deputy inspector-general of police.

Mr. Mulder arrived in Sri Lanka four months ago. After an earlier visit to rebel-held areas this month, Mr. Mulder put up a poster in his Colombo office criticising President Chandrika Kumaratunga's fund-raising campaign to finance the war against Tamil Tigers.



Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori (right) waves after being sworn in for his second term (AFP photo) as president of Peru. He is accompanied by Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

Fujimori inaugurated to 2nd term

LIMA (AP) — President Alberto Fujimori, credited with crippling a guerrilla insurgency during his first term, was sworn-in for five more years Friday amid heavy security — a reminder the rebels were still a threat.

Mr. Fujimori received the red-and-white presidential sash from Martha Chavez, president of Congress, as nine Latin American presidents and other dignitaries looked on.

Looking somber, he called for a minute of silence to remember those killed in fighting the Shining Path guerrillas.

The bespectacled Fujimori, an obscure former college dean and mathematics professor before his sur-

prise election in 1990, said he was taking the oath in the name of "the men and women of this country who have given their lives to make it great."

"Violence and death... have lashed our country for many years, leaving pain, hatred, fear in all of Peru's homes. 30,000 dead, thousands wounded and mutilated, 100,000 orphans and 600,000 refugees," he said.

"That night is remaining behind and we are beginning to see the dawn of better days," Mr. Fujimori, who turned 57 Friday, has received praise for battling insurgents, slashing runaway inflation and attracting foreign investors to resuscitate Peru's moribund economy.

But in a clear sign that the Maoist guerrilla movement is not dead, the inauguration ceremonies took place under the heaviest security seen in Lima since 1992, arguing the step was necessary to halt the rebels' advance.

On Thursday, authorities closed off 100 blocks in downtown Lima to vehicle traffic and were controlling even pedestrian access to the historic Plaza de Armas where the government palace and Congress are located.

Barricades manned by police with automatic weapons blocked the streets leading into Lima's downtown.

Schwarzenegger wins lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger has won a legal arm wrestle with French magazine Voici for reporting that he had been a client of Heidi Fleiss, the Hollywood madam convicted of pandering. The former Mister Universe did not disclose the amount of the judgement against Voici publisher Prisma Presse, but said in a statement that he would donate the money to the Special Olympics. The lawsuit centred on an April 1994 Voici article quoting a Fleiss employee who said Schwarzenegger had hired one of the madam's prostitutes. The magazine refused to retract the statement at Schwarzenegger's request, his lawyer said. "When publications and tabloids print those statements about me," the millionaire actor said, "I intend to take swift action to protect my good reputation."

Old lady jailed for feeding the pigeons

LONDON (AFP) — A woman of 68 spent five days in prison for ignoring a judge's order not to feed the pigeons. Neighbours and the local council had complained that Jean Knowles fed the birds entire bags of bread-crumbs in her garden in Croydon, on the outskirts of south London. Ms. Knowles, who friends say is slightly mentally unstable, used to attract hundreds of pigeons whose droppings made the area dirty. A judge ordered her to stop and gave her several warnings before jailing her. Sentenced to 28 days Monday, she was freed Friday after "humbly" apologising to the judge and promising not to offend.

Michael Jackson video gets a touch-up

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A new Michael Jackson video showing the singer nude was doctored before being aired to remove a flash of his privates, two west coast publications reported Friday. Angel wings were added at the time using a costly computer process, Daily Variety and the Los Angeles Times said. "Jacko Gains Wing, Loses Ding," was the headline in Variety. Unidentified sources told Variety the computerised video alterations cost millions of dollars.

Waterworld opens to mixed reviews

LOS ANGELES (R) — Waterworld, the most expensive movie in Hollywood history, opened Friday to mixed reviews with some critics praising the film's special effects while others called the futuristic thriller a dud. The \$200 million epic, which opened in U.S. theatres, has attracted an incredible amount of attention, largely because of its extraordinary price tag and reports of bickering behind the scenes between the film's star, Kevin Costner, and director Kevin Reynolds. In a lukewarm review, the New York Times called it a "big, brawny epic" that "goes slack between its taunts and explosion." The Wall Street Journal was less forgiving, calling the film a "disappointment of minor proportions," while Chicago Tribune film critic Gene Siskel called it "boring and ugly." Chicago Sun Times critic Ebert said the movie, which depicts life in a future age when the polar ice caps have melted and covered the Earth with water, misses in places where it could have been interesting. "I would have welcomed more of those details about the global floating culture," he said in his review. "But like so many science fiction movies, this one bypasses the best possibilities of the genre. Instead of science and speculation, we get a lot of violent action scenes." Some critics offered more positive reviews. USA Today gave Waterworld three stars out of a possible four, saying it has the makings of a cult favourite. The Miami Herald went further, calling it a "visionary, action-packed epic with aquatic stuntswork of unprecedented scale, loads of heroic derring-do and some cool boats."

Japan's Takemura to stay party chief

TOKYO (R) — Finance Minister Magayoshi Takemura withdrew his resignation as leader of the smallest party in Japan's government Saturday, ending a political crisis in the ruling coalition.

Mr. Takemura, who resigned Friday as head of the Sakigake Party because of an electoral setback, kept party officials guessing for almost 24 hours before heading their pleas to remain as party leader.

"Takemura has agreed to stay head of the party," a relieved Sakigake Party deputy leader Shigetaka Tanaka told reporters.

"I feel responsible for weakening the party. But I have decided to abide by the party's decision," a stern-looking Takemura told reporters. "Let's make a fresh start this time."

Mr. Tanaka said there was no question that Mr. Takemura, who has guided Japan's economy for the past 13 months, would remain finance minister. Mr. Takemura never resigned that post.

However, Mr. Takemura, who resigned because of the party's poor showing in last Sunday's upper house elections, did not flinch from putting his performance as finance minister under the microscope.

"All of those concerned, including myself, must clarify responsibility," Mr. Takemura said of a scandal involving a senior bureaucrat in the Finance Ministry.

The bureaucrat was dismissed for questionable business links that the ministry said betrayed public trust.

Mr. Takemura's resignation was sparked by the poor showing in the House of Councillors election of not only Sakigake but also the other two ruling parties, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's Socialists.

Sakigake won three seats, half the number it wanted, and the ruling bloc ended seven short of its target of 75 seats.

Gatembo Emmanuel told Reuters. "There were a lot of wounded as well," he said. Witnesses put the number taking part in the protest at up to 2,000 people.

Some said Palu Party leader and veteran opposition, activist Antoine Gizeganga had been arrested.

Security forces sealed off the parliament building after the incident. They also man-handled journalists and briefly detained them for questioning.

Palu Party spokesman was organised by supporters of the Palu Party of murdered post-independence Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba to protest against the extension of Zaire's democratic transition for a further two years.

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World News

ANGELES (AFP) — A former Schwarzenegger legal adviser on a legal adviser French magazine reporting that he is a client of the Hollywood convicted of murdering former Miss USA and not disclose the details of the judgement. The publisher of the magazine, but said in a statement he would donate the money to the Special Victims Unit. The magazine had hired one of the prostitutes. The magazine refused to return the money to Schwarzenegger's request, he said. "When you print tabloids print lies about me," the actor said. "I take swift action to my good reputation have been established. I, who has been convicted of murdering a woman in a California court, is not on charges the money earned from my service in the magazine's department store collapse as they vent their rage at Mr. Cho for not staying for the full memorial service for the



Cho Nam-Ho (shirtless), chief of the Socho district of Seoul, runs from a mob of family members of the victims of last month's department store collapse as they vent their rage at Mr. Cho for not staying for the full memorial service for the victims of the collapse in Seoul. Mr. Cho was punched, kicked and struck by various objects as about 20 victim's family members beat on him. His present condition is unknown (Reuters photo)

Official assaulted over S. Korean store collapse

SEOUL (R) — A senior city official was assaulted by angry relatives Saturday when he attended a memorial service for victims of last month's Seoul department store collapse which killed at least 458 people, people, witnesses said.

Cho Nam-Ho, chief administrator of Seoul's Socho district, an upmarket residential area where the store is located, was kicked and punched by dozens of relatives when he was about to leave a memorial hall after attending the service.

"Cho managed to escape from the hall after about 10 minutes and received treatment for bruises at hospital," one witness said.

The official death toll from the collapse of Sampoong Department Store was 458 Saturday, with 93 still listed missing.

Search operations have been suspended at the site while officials search for bodies that might be in the tonnes of rubble from the store dumped on the outskirts of Seoul.

The collapse was the latest of a string of man-made disasters in recent years which have raised questions about safety standards and embarrassed the government of President Kim Young-Sam.

Spaniards doubt Gonzalez on GAL

MADRID (R) — Most Spaniards are not convinced Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was telling parliament the truth when he said he was unaware of the creation of anti-ETA death squads, a poll said Saturday.

The poll, published by El Mundo newspaper, found 63 per cent believed he knew about the anti-terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL) and 59 per cent thought he should resign.

Mr. Gonzalez appeared in parliament Thursday in response to claims by a former Socialist leader in the Basque country, Ricardo Garcia Damborenea, that he had known about the GAL.

The prime minister has said he will take legal action against Mr. Garcia Damborenea for these allegations but the judge investigating the GAL case, Baltasar Garzon, Friday referred the case to the Supreme Court.

GAL killed 27 people in all during the 1980s in a series of undercover operations against ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom).

The government issued a statement late Friday deploring that the contents of Mr. Garzon's report to the Supreme Court, which is sub judice, should have been leaked to the media.

"The government wishes to express its surprise that confidential information should have been immediately reproduced in the media," it said.

"It is intolerable, contrary to the rights of defence and incompatible with legal norms, that none of those implicated has had access to this resolution," it added.

The statement said alleged involvement of Mr. Gonzalez, former Deputy Prime Minister Narcis Serra, former Interior Minister Jose Barionuevo and top Socialist Party official Jose Maria Benegas in a GAL kidnapping was "absolutely false."

5 killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI (AFP) — At least five people including the brother of a ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) councillor were shot dead Saturday in this strife-torn Pakistani port city, police and hospital sources said.

Two people were killed in sniper firing in the city's western district, while the bullet-ridden body of another was found in Liaquatabad, a central district neighbourhood, police said.

Two more, including the brother of a PPP councillor, were shot dead and three others were injured in the central district, in an attack by unidentified armed gunmen riding two motorcycles.

The violence has decreased lately, amid a stepped-up crackdown by police and paramilitary troops and talks between the Pakistani government and the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

The last MQM government meeting took place here Monday and another round is scheduled for July 31 in Islamabad.

But, the head of MQM negotiating team, Ajmal Dethi, said Saturday the party had not yet decided whether to go to the next round of talks, which would depend on the government's response to MQM demands.

Italy's Bossi probed over remarks

BIANTUA, Italy (R) — Magistrates said Saturday they had opened an investigation into Umberto Bossi, the fiery leader of Italy's federalist Northern League, after reports that he had made secessionist remarks.

Giulio Tamburini, deputy prosecutor in the northern city of Mantua, confirmed that Mr. Bossi was being probed for the possible crime of "threatening the integrity, independence of unity of the state."

Mr. Bossi told reporters: "I knew about it (the investigation) and I am not interested. Let him (the prosecutor) do his job and I'll do mine."

The politician was widely quoted last Tuesday as threatening to form an independent Northern Republic, with a possible parliament in Mantua, unless Italy's constitution were changed to usher in the federalist republic his party wants.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro said Mr. Bossi had gone too far.

"Threatening actions not envisaged under the constitution, in the event that one's own arguments are failing, is illegitimate as well as being undemocratic," Mr. Scalfaro said.

The northern League was part of the government of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi until Mr. Bossi withdrew his support in December, causing the centre-right coalition to collapse after just seven months in office.

Dublin frees 12 IRA prisoners

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Twelve IRA prisoners were released early from jail Saturday as part of the Dublin government's effort to edge forward the delicate process of bringing permanent peace to Northern Ireland.

The 12 — all serving sentences for armed robbery or arms possession and mostly due to leave jail within the next two years — were greeted outside the prison south of Dublin by small groups of family and supporters.

Saturday's releases brought to 33 the number of Irish Republican Army (IRA) prisoners set free by Dublin since extremist Republican and Protestant Gunmen declared ceasefires in the war over British rule of Northern Ireland almost a year ago.

The British government has been much more cautious in its approach but Ireland's justice minister made clear she hoped Britain would follow suit.

"The issue of prisoners, along with a number of others, is sensitive to the peace process and its consolidation," Justice Minister Nora O'Connell said in a statement.

"I have no doubt that the British government will take a close examination and will watch carefully how matters will progress with regard to prisoners in the coming weeks."

Britain has rejected calls for an amnesty for former guerrillas on both sides but

public confidence.

"There are moments when in fact diplomacy and dialogue will demand degrees of secrecy, but I believe the situation in which we are, there is a dreadful need — a desperate need — for people to know more about what is being done and why it is being done."

The archbishop also called on all paramilitary groups to begin decommissioning weapons.

He said people had told him that until the arms issue was settled, they would find it difficult to accept the verbal assurances of former paramilitaries.

But he acknowledged that progress had been made on the issues of releasing prisoners and negotiations.

Britain Friday lifted a 10-year ban on state funds for community groups suspected of channeling aid to armed groups in northern Ireland.

The announcement by Sir Patrick, after nearly 12 months of a truce by the IRA and Protestant gunmen, coincided with the European Union's announcement of an Irish aid package.

The EU will give £351 million (\$562 million) to help the British-ruled province and the five countries of the Irish Republic that border it.

The money will be spent over three years to encourage investment, improve education and develop cross-border links between the mainly Protestant North and the overwhelmingly Catholic south, EU spokesman said.

China seeks U.S. commitment to limit contacts with Taiwan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (Agencies) — China Saturday demanded a U.S. vow to strictly limit contacts with Taiwan as the two powers prepared for a crucial meeting between Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said only a clear-cut American commitment to keep links with Taiwan unofficial could improve relations, which plunged after a U.S. visit by Taiwanese President Lee Teng Hui in June.

Mr. Shen, interviewed on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) annual meeting in the capital of Brunei, also said the arrest of a Chinese-American activist was not a diplomatic issue.

Mr. Qian and Mr. Christopher will attend an ASEAN security forum. Bilateral ties are at their lowest level since the 1989 massacre of pro-democracy protesters in Beijing.

"The Taiwan issue is the central issue to be resolved. Asked if Beijing wanted a blanket ban on U.S. visits by Mr. Lee, he replied: "It is up to them to take the concrete actions. They know what the concrete actions should be."

But Mr. Christopher said in Washington Friday that the United States will not agree to a prohibition on future U.S. visits by the president of Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province.

Mr. Christopher is expected to arrive here Monday as part of a major Asian visit culminating in the normalisation of relations with Washington's old adversary Vietnam, which joined the ASEAN Friday.

Mr. Shen said Washington "should make a commitment" that "Taiwan relations shall be strictly limited" to "non-government" contacts as specified under the three point communiques governing Sino-U.S. relations.

"If you stick to the joint communiques, bilateral relations will be improved," he said, adding that failure to do so would worsen ties.

Later at a news conference, Mr. Shen said: "It is our hope that the United States comes to realise the importance of the Sino-U.S. relationship."

Washington should realise "the importance of adherence to the spirit and principles of the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques," and should "take effective measures in this regard."

Mr. Lee, whose country has become an economic powerhouse with extensive investments overseas, has been raising Taiwan's international profile by making ostensibly private visits to countries which officially recognise only Beijing.

The arrest of a Chinese-American activist, Harry Wu, on espionage charges, trade disputes and reported Chinese missile sales to Pakistan also figure in the Sino-U.S. squabble.

Mr. Shen said the arrest of Mr. Wu, who has allegedly confessed to fabricating videos about prison labour in China, was not a diplomatic issue.

"We always maintained that it has nothing to do with China-U.S. relations," he said in the interview. "It is up

to the legal system."

Mr. Shen conceded that it was not a purely internal Chinese affair "because he is an American citizen, but he violated Chinese law."

Mr. Qian met Saturday with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev who pledged that his country would abide by a "one China" policy, Mr. Shen said. The two ministers also agreed to step up the frequency of their contacts.

The U.S.-China rift has worried Asian nations.

Singapore Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar, speaking at the opening of the annual ASEAN ministerial meeting, said the grouping "cannot rest easy until this major bilateral relationship is repaired and restored to a healthy state."

Jusuf Wanandi, chairman of Indonesia's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP that the Qian-Christopher meeting "will not be adequate ... to patch up everything."

"But it is definitely going to come to some kind of an understanding that the deterioration of the relationship has already gone far enough, and that there must be an effort on both sides to patch up and to improve things again," he said.

He said one issue the meeting may take up is whether Chinese President Jiang Zemin would be invited by President Bill Clinton to visit Washington when the Chinese leader goes to the United Nations in New York this fall.

Mr. Christopher Saturday embarked on his sixth and, arguably, most important trip to Asia.

He is on a rescue mission to stabilise badly damaged relations with China.

He also aims to finally close the book on America's bitter Indochina war legacy by beginning to craft a new relationship with Vietnam.

The secretary makes an overnight stop in Hawaii before arriving in Brunei Monday.

After Brunei, Mr. Christopher will become the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Cambodia in four decades and the first to visit Vietnam since U.S. troops were withdrawn from the country 22 years ago in a humiliating military defeat.

After spending the first half of the year largely focused on Europe," Mr. Christopher looks toward Asia at what many officials consider a critical juncture for U.S. policy toward the region.

This region is now remarkably free of conflict," Mr. Christopher told the national Press Club Friday in a broad speech about U.S. Asia policy.

"But while no major power views another power as an immediate military threat, there is a considerable danger that age-old rivalries could be rekindled," he said.

He also cited the "problem that the dynamic economic growth that is spurring integration is at the same time creating new tensions, as there is a competition for resources and markets."

In the speech, Mr. Christopher reasserted U.S. determination to remain a leader in Asia and outlined the Clinton administration's four-part strategy of involvement.

Kashmir leaders reject India's election plans

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Kashmiri leaders have rejected India's plans to hold elections in the strife-torn region saying they were aimed more at impressing the West than finding a solution to its problems.

"In June, India extended New Delhi's direct rule over Jammu and Kashmir, the largely Hindu nation's only Muslim-majority state, saying it planned to hold elections to start the democratic process afresh."

Rebels have been waging a five-year rebellion against New Delhi and militancy in the state is rampant. Some militant groups want independence, others want to join neighbouring Pakistan, which disputes Kashmir.

"The current crisis in Kashmir is a direct offspring of election, therefore elections are not an answer to the problems," Abdul Ghani, a senior leader of the separatist multi-party Hurriyat (freedom) Conference told Reuters.

Armed rebellion broke out in Kashmir in 1990 after a steady build up of resentment against New Delhi's ruling Congress Party and the locally-popular National Conference, which formed an electoral alliance in 1987.

Police and hospital sources say more than 20,000 people have been killed since violence erupted in the state.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting separatism in Kashmir and aiding and abetting the militants. Islamabad says it gives only moral and diplomatic support.

"Elections are a futile exercise aimed more at impressing the West by telling them that democratic process has been started in the state," Hurriyat President Mirwaiz Omar Farooq said.

Plans to hold elections this month fell through after a Kashmiri shrine at Charare-o-Sharif was burnt down in May. India accused militants of razing the shrine, but the guerrillas blamed the Indian army.

Mr. Farooq said elections would be a futile exercise as India continued to shy away from the core issue — that Kashmir is a region disputed between India and Pakistan.

"There needs to be a change of heart. India first has to accept that Kashmiris have rebelled against its administration. The core issue has to be discussed," he said.

The 20,000 people who have died, have given their blood for a cause, not for elections," Mr. Farooq said, adding that until India and

Pakistan sorted out their differences over Kashmir and involved Kashmiris in their talks no solution could be found.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) opposes Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's plans to hold elections, saying polls should not be held until the situation improves.

Meanwhile, diplomats said they saw no quick breakthrough for five Western tourists held by shadowy militants in Kashmir as a three-week-old hostage crisis showed no signs of easing Saturday.

"This could go on for a while," one diplomat said.

The previously unknown Al Faran captured Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro while they were trekking in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The American and two Britons were kidnapped on July 4, and the German and Norwegian on July 8.

Al Faran demanded that India release some 20 Kashmiri separatists from jail, but New Delhi has said it will not exchange militants for the hostages.

The captors set a deadline of July 17, saying they could kill the hostages any time after that date. Since then they have set no new deadline.

"The Indian government is not going to release the prisoners," one envoy said. "This is something of a stalemate and could go on for a while."

Indian authorities have had on-and-off contact with the captors, diplomats said. Al Faran, which had issued several statements, has not been heard from for nearly a week.

Rugged Kashmir has had to grapple with four separate bomb blasts that killed 25 people as well as torrential rain which has triggered flooding, killing nearly 50 people in the past week.

The deluge, which has brought down temperatures and made travel treacherous, has raised worries about the condition of the hostages, who in a message earlier this month said they were being made to move long distances to elude authorities.

Al Faran said one of the hostages, which the group did not name, was in serious condition following a gun battle with Indian forces. The government denied any clash.

Rwandan Hutu official, children killed

KIGALI (R) — Rwandan soldiers hacked a senior Hutu government official and his two children to death before setting ablaze their house in the central town of Ruhango on Thursday night, diplomats said Saturday.

The Kigali-based diplomats said the troops entered the house of Placide Kolonis, a local administration official who belonged to Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu's Republican Democratic Movement, and killed him and his children with machetes and knives before setting it on fire.

Mr. Twagiramungu, a member of the Hutu majority, is a leading coalition partner in Rwanda's broad-based government formed a year ago after Tutsi-dominated rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) took power and ended civil war and genocidal killings.

U.N. spokesman Ismail Diallo told Reuters that before the killings, U.N. military observers based in Ruhango saw a government soldier outside Kolonis's house.

"Our military advisers saw one government soldier in uniform outside the house. They later heard screams coming from inside before it was set on fire," Mr. Diallo said.

"After that, five bodies were recovered from the house," Mr. Diallo added.

A houseboy was also killed in the attack but the identity of the fifth body was not known.

There was no immediate comment from the government or army but state radio said Mr. Kolonis was killed by "unidentified gunmen."

Mr. Kolonis was only released from detention three weeks ago after being arrested in February on charges of taking part in last year's genocidal killings which devastated Rwanda after the assassination of Hutu strongman Juvenal Habyarimana.

About one million people, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were slaughtered in the killings that took place between April and July last year.

The Ruhango killings are expected to raise tension in Rwanda's coalition government, controlled by the Tutsi-dominated army which is accused by exiled Hutus and aid workers of seeking revenge for last year's genocide.

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived in the Rwandan capital Kigali Saturday only hours after the killings.

Arch. Tutu came with a strong message for reconciliation in the tiny central African state torn apart by last

year's genocidal ethnic killings.

"I speak from our own experience in South Africa," the Nobel Peace Prize winner told reporters on arrival at Kigali Airport.

"Ultimately we must concentrate on forgiveness and reconciliation because if we concentrate on retribution, I am fearful that the spiral of violence, resentment and payback will never end," Arch. Tutu added.

The renowned South African clergyman flew in from neighbouring Burundi, which has the same ethnic Tutsi and Hutu mix as Rwanda.

Analysts fear it could go down the same path as Rwanda.

In Grenoble, France, judicial sources said a Rwandan priest has been placed under investigation on suspicion of involvement in genocide in his country last year.

Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, a Roman Catholic priest who has been living and working in southern France for almost a year after fleeing Rwanda, would be examined over accusations of genocide, inhuman and degrading treatment, torture and barbarism, they said.

Several Rwandan Tutsi witnesses who sought refuge in the Sainte Famille Church in Kigali last year have accused Fr. Munyeshyaka of giving Hutu militias lists of Tutsi sympathisers who were later taken away and killed as part of a campaign of genocide.

Fr. Munyeshyaka has denied the charges, including allegations that he forced women to sleep with him in return for not handing them over.

At a recent news conference to deny involvement, he said "I'm no hero, but I'm no Touvier either," wartime French militia chief Paul Touvier was accused of killing Jews during the Nazi occupation.

The priest was detained Friday by two plain-clothes gendarmes as he got off a train at Montelimar in southern France after a visit to Paris. Investigators searched his nearby home and ordered him held in jail for an initial four days.

Being placed under investigation is often the first step towards a trial. If the probe linked him to the genocide, lawyers said, Fr. Munyeshyaka might be extradited to Rwanda rather than tried in France.

His detention is a big embarrassment for the French Roman Catholic Church, which helped Fr. Munyeshyaka come to France, saying that his offers of sanctuary had saved many lives.

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Progress in speaking out

THE FACT that an Arab Human Rights Organisation exists at all and it investigates then publishes reports on the condition of human rights in the Arab World is positive and encouraging. Such has the case been since the establishment in 1987 of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR).

The conclusions that AOHR reached in its report for 1994 is, however, distressing. The organisation says that Arab human rights did in fact deteriorate in 1994 after improvements were registered in the late 1980s.

"We recorded some positive steps, but the total shows a continuing erosion of legal guarantees and the occurrence of extreme violation of human rights," the organisation's secretary general, Mohammad Faiq, said in a statement earlier this week.

After enumerating the most disturbing violations — including torture, mass executions, long-term detention, amputation of limbs, producing false witnesses, falsifying documents, etc. — the group recorded a "counter legislative trend which tends to weaken legal guarantees and harshen punishment." In other words, these practices have made abuse of human rights a legal matter. This of course is worse than violations made under eras of martial laws in the Arab World since such laws are being enforced on people through weak and in many instances puppet parliaments.

One example that AOHR gave on this was the infamous Egyptian "law of defamation" which, aiming to protect officials from allegations of corruption, meant to muzzle the press by imposing heavy fines and jail sentences on "violating" journalists. Although the Egyptian government was able to pass the law through the single-party dominated Parliament, the journalists, have forced the government to retract the legislation and appoint a committee to reconsider the legislation.

One way to resist government tendency to be brutal or legalise brutality is certainly found in the work of such grassroots organisations as AOHR or journalists' associations. It is encouraging in this regard to note that some Jordanian newspapers have carried the organisation's report. At this stage the mere feat of exposing human rights abuses in the Arab World will lay the ground for the elimination of many violations, including the denial of people's political rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Saturday wondered about the complete silence of Pope John Paul II vis-a-vis the genocide being committed in Bosnia against the Muslims at the hands of Christians. Sultan Al Hattab, also wondered why the Eastern churches are silent with regard to the events; and asked about the numerous Christian-Muslim dialogues which we have heard about. What we are witnessing is the beginning of a new kind of conflict between religions, following the end of the cold war between the East and West, said the writer. The silence of the Vatican and the Eastern churches vis-a-vis the events in Bosnia is adding to our fears and apprehensions and we are appalled at Europe's indifference to what is happening in Bosnia where thousands of women, children and innocent people are being massacred, he added. The writer said scientists, political leaders and heads of international organisations are all silent and condoning the denial of Bosnia's right to arm itself to fend off the aggression, while the Arab and Islamic nations are showing cowardice and not rallying to help their brothers and sisters. The writer condemned what he called the annihilation of the Muslims in Europe.

A WRITER in Al Dustour said that Washington will commit a grave error if it decides to extradite the leader of the political wing of Hamas to Israel. Saleh Qallab said Washington must realise that the extradition will not weaken Hamas or the other forces which it considers as terrorists; neither will it help curb reprisals. The Hamas leader has been legally living in the United States and his arrest can only receive strong condemnation by the Arab and Muslim nations as a conspiracy on the part of the United States against the Arabs and Muslims, said the writer. The arrest came at a time when Hamas was reportedly contemplating transforming itself into a political party, bent on opposing normalisation with Israel and therefore his arrest is regarded as a means for foiling such tendency and keeping the Palestinian lands in turmoil, he added. Demanding that Washington release the Hamas leader, the writer said that the U.S. authorities ought to treat him as a leader of a political and national movement seeking freedom from occupation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

Agricultural agreement around the corner

THE JORDANIAN-Israeli peace treaty called for the finalisation of all supplementary agreements and new laws within nine months of its signing. Since the treaty was signed on Oct. 26, 1994, the deadline fell due last Wednesday, July 26.

However, it seems that both parties are not in a hurry to finish the job on time, especially under the new political doctrine put forward by Israeli officials, namely that dates in the agreements are not sacred. Nevertheless, the preliminary drafts of all supplementary agreements are almost ready, but weeks or months are still needed before they are signed.

A tourism agreement was already signed. At the time, we noted that it did not create anything new or alter any situation. Most likely the two parties need not refer to any article in that agreement to support a point of view. The importance of signing a tourism agreement lies in the fact that an agreement was concluded and signed, and that an item on the agenda was implemented.

The crucial agreement is that which will cover trade. It has many controversial points of view and conflicting interests. The trade agreement was delayed due to a basic difference in understanding, a requirement by the peace treaty. The delay in reaching a commercial agreement put all other agreements on hold. It does not make sense to sign agreements on activities such as transport or agriculture before a trade agreement is finalised.

The point of disagreement was whether the treaty called for the establishment of free zones, as Jordan thinks it did,

or for the establishment of a free trade agreement as Israeli negotiators insist. It seems that the recent meeting on the political level between the ministers of industry and trade of the countries resolved this point by accepting the principle of a free trade area, but without setting a target date for its implementation, which means it is left until such time when the Jordanian economy becomes ready for this big step.

The draft of the agricultural agreement was recently discussed and evaluated by the Ministerial Development Council, which decided that some stipulations should be renegotiated to clarify some ambiguous wordings and avoid future misunderstandings.

We were told that, in general, the agricultural agreement is favourable to Jordan, and that Israel undertook to import certain quantities of agricultural products, including a minimum of 30 thousand tonnes of fresh vegetables and fruits every year, 900 tonnes of olive oil and other specified amounts of white cheese and live sheep, all duty free and without a corresponding commitment on behalf of Jordan.

Since the Jordanian-Israeli agreements must be executed sooner or later in accordance with provisions of the peace treaty, and since they are favourable to Jordan, as claimed by the government, it is advisable that Jordan should fulfill all requirements and make Israel responsible for any delay.

It is also useful to publish the draft agreements, even though they are not in a final shape, in order to allow those whose interests may be affected to express opinions and lobby for the protection of their legitimate interests.

LETTERS

The shame of the West

To the Editor:

SITTING BEFORE our TV screens and watching the continuous suffering and humiliation of innocent Bosnian civilians is not only appalling but also outrageous and beyond human comprehension. However, what seems to be more horrifying is having to face a pathetically more horrifying Western community which has little to say and nothing to do regarding genocide and ethnic cleansing. What we see today, and what we have been seeing during the past three years the course of the "double standard" Yugoslavia is not only a policy of "double standards" and "hypocrisy" displayed by the Western countries in their fruitless effort to resolve the conflict, but beyond any doubt, the attitude of an accomplice to a crime.

The West should be ashamed of its failure to restrain a "lunatic on the go" right in their backyard, and for failing to secure fundamental human rights to peoples in the heart of their civilised world.

Under the present circumstances, why should we continue to admire Western achievements and believe in Western rhetoric about peaceful coexistence among peoples of all faiths?

Mrs. Rumiana M. Nuseibeh,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Syria, Israel 'approaching moment of truth'

(Continued from page 1)

withdraw physically or geographically and to reenter the region by having an economic influence, and as a result of it, there was a rejection in the Arab World, including Jordan. Later on, he said, "we understood that because of the big gap between the Israeli economy and the Arab economies, if Israel is involved with the Arabs, there would be a kind of domination. And the question for us is not whether anybody would dominate us because if Israel doesn't dominate us, so there are the others, the Europeans, the Americans or whoever. But the question is whether we were ready for an Israeli influence economically speaking." And he said that "my own conclusion is it is better to have the economic relationship with Israel despite this problem of asymmetry between the economies rather than have a foreign one." But that is the private view of a Jordanian leader I am quoting without attribution.

Q: But with separation between Israel and the Palestinians there is a contradiction there with Israel's claims that it wants to remove walls with the Arab World?

A: Well, I admit that it is a real question. The basic assumption is that we are not speaking here about equal integration. I mean otherwise it would have been much easier. But because of the asymmetry between the economies, what will happen if there was such an integration is that we will use the low wages and in many cases the natural resources in the region in exchange for new technology or financial services or whatever. And when it happens, people may say you see what kind of situation we have now, it is not a relationship between equals. And I'm quite afraid of it. If I have to decide, I believe I would subscribe to the idea that infrastructure and tourism is natural for us to cooperate... telecommunications, roads, railroads, energy, water, all these are natural for us to cooperate. Once we speak about other areas we should at least be careful not to fall into that trap. May be life is stronger, it is not up to governments. Eventually the businessmen on both sides will decide whether or not to cooperate. And if one Israeli businessman finds it very profitable to have a factory for textile elsewhere, he would not ask me what to do and will use the low wages in the neighbouring country and the natural resources and that would happen. But if it was up to me I would do it very carefully.

Q: Considering that violence against Israel might play a major role in influencing elections in Israel, to what extent do you feel that public opinion in Israel blames you government and Mr. Arafat for this violence and may vote against you as a result?

A: Well, we are not immune. I said (recently) that we took part in the peace process not because of terrorism. We took part because of mainly two reasons: One we wanted to remove a strategic threat to Israel, which has been the case since 1948. And the second was to create a new situation whereby we are not controlling the Palestinian

people who don't want us. Those were the two main issues. Now we never knew it would be possible to put an end to terrorism by that. But we knew that if there was a comprehensive peace, it might be much more difficult for the lunatics of this world to operate, because there won't be a popular support for them, because there would be different motivations, because the different leaderships would do their utmost in order to prevent them from operating because they would have different interests by then.

Q: Do you agree that in order to remove the political cover from violent groups you need to end the occupation of the West Bank?

A: Regrettably, I'm not so sure. After all, a very significant recognition took place between us and the PLO and many people thought that as a result terrorism will decrease, but it increased actually. The end of the PLO terrorism was very important for the long range, but for the short run, it didn't stop terrorism.

Q: But the occupation hasn't ended yet?

A: Yes, but I cannot promise my people that once there is full peace with the Palestinians, there would be no terrorism. Even (last week), the editor of the Hamas paper in Gaza was asked whether full peace with the Palestinian leadership would satisfy and put an end to terrorism, he said full peace yes, but not according to Yasser Arafat. You see, they see their leadership as traitors as here many people see our leadership.

Q: I'm talking about removing sympathy for violence? A: I hope very much that once we have comprehensive peace terrorism would decrease drastically.

Q: What is happening in the Syrian track?

A: We are approaching the moment of truth with the Syrians. I think this moment of truth I believe is the end of 1995. I don't see any real prospect for a breakthrough in 1996 because of the American electoral year. The Americans will not be done in order to help both of us negotiate. And regrettably, the Syrians believe they are negotiating with the Americans and that the Americans can deliver us, and they don't want to talk to us on a high political level. We complied with that because we want peace. We did not play the game of pride, despite the fact that we understand that as long as the level of negotiations is as such it would be very difficult to have a real breakthrough in the negotiations. After three years of negotiations, we are not too far from square one. There were some developments we cannot ignore: the release of Jews in Syria, the public appearance of (Foreign) Minister (Farouk) Shar'a, the banners in Damascus with Mr. Clinton and without him in his parliament. All these should be remembered. But when it comes to the major issue of the process with Israel, I must note that despite the fact that our prime minister said that the

extent of our withdrawal would be parallel to the extent of peace proposed by the Syrians, they did not jump on it. I mean they have a special way to portray whatever is said here as nothing new or nothing important. Nothing is perceived as a real step forward, mainly because if you admit that the other side is doing something you have to do something in parallel, but as long as you say what's the big deal, it is nothing, you can release yourself of a real step. And that is why I raised a question mark about the strategic decision of President Assad several months ago. I understand that President Assad is a very experienced and shrewd leader not because I know him but because I know many others who know him. And I understand that he understands there is no other superpower in the world today than the United States. And maybe his belief is that in order to have better relations with the United States it is important for him to have peace with Israel. But in order to take a strategic decision you have to pay a price. The price for peace is not only an Israeli one. On our side, it is very tangible, on the Syrian side, it is psychological, educational, political and symbolic. There are many people who have met President Assad in the last three to four years, who say that for him the price may be seen very expensive, especially the normalisation with Israel, which is national and psychologically is very difficult for him. And that is why, it is not that we have to discover the real policy behind the words. It is even him perhaps has not taken this decision as the decision was taken by King Hussein and Chairman Arafat who also knew that they were going to pay a price for peace.

Q: There is an argument that public opinion in Syria is ready for peace and that President Assad is preparing the country for peace. But that he is bargaining over other priorities including Syria's regional role, Lebanon and economic assistance, and that he wants the Americans to guarantee this as a package.

A: In a way your words are familiar to me, speaking with so many people who have met him. But on the other issues you mentioned, and there are others, there is very little we could do, if at all. And somehow, there is a lack of stamina on the Syrian side, because I don't know if these demands can be satisfied by anybody, but I did not see a kind of a political decision to say O.K. We are ready to do that, this is the list, let us check with the Americans, with the Europeans, the Japanese and the Israelis themselves, how can we satisfy these demands. Then we could find out that these demands are not achievable or maybe they are achievable. To the best of my knowledge, there was no activity on his side to check the reality of achieving these requirements. It is always an enigma. Somebody says maybe Lebanon is more important than the Golan. Another one says you know it is the terrorism list, a third says no it is the money, whatever. We are all asking and guessing. Therefore I ask myself: If President Assad wants peace

so much and wants so many things, why is he so timid in putting them on the table? Does he believe, for example, that Israel will be more flexible towards the elections, that peace with Syria is so important for our victory, that we would be ready to give up more the closer we are to the elections. If he thinks so, then he doesn't understand Israeli democracy, which is the other way around. I think your analyses which appears in the form of a question is true. But I believe in the case of Syria that despite the readiness of the world to attribute to President Assad strategy, long-range strategy or whatever, that he also gets up in the morning asks himself what is good for him or for his country, then people around him tell him why should you go and pay a price of giving normalisation with Israel and tourists and an Israeli flag hoisted on the Israeli embassy? You have Lebanon, and the world understands you are having negotiations, nobody is accusing you of anything: the arms boycott was lifted in Europe, you have economic relations now which were not there in the past, you have good relations with Iran which may be harmed if you make peace with Israel. I can suggest a whole list of arguments as to why not to make peace with us. And on the other hand, people may say to him that if you make peace with Israel you will have the world on your side, you will have the Americans, you may have some kind of economic assistance, you may have some guarantees for what you want or whatever. And he wakes up every morning and asks himself whether that is true or not. He reads something in the paper, he gets angry, he says no, if this is the case, if that was being leaked, if the Americans said it, if Rabin said it, if Yossi Beilin said it, I'm not going on. And I believe that the second option is the more realistic one. There is no grand plan on his side, and he believes that somehow he can benefit from the time that is passing, and here, I believe, is his biggest mistake.

Q: But why isn't Israel delivering on the question of symmetrical security arrangements despite having the upper military hand? Why not agree and call Syria's bluff? A: I think Israel called his bluff. After many years in which we annexed the Golan Heights, the governments of the past were not willing to withdraw an inch from the Golan. And Israel could have been accused for being too stubborn on the Syrian issue. But since the last three years, especially when our prime minister told him that our withdrawal from the Golan would be symmetrical, with the Syrian readiness to make peace with us, we actually called his bluff... withdraw to whatever international border agreed between us, for us the most important thing is not the land but the security. I cannot enter into the details of the negotiations about security. Israel is so small that it is geographically almost a joke. And speaking here about symmetry with other countries is impossible. There is no symmetry between a country like Israel and Egypt or Jordan and Israel or Syria and Israel.

That is why I believe that nobody is seriously referring to symmetry. I think once there is willingness on the Syrian side to talk with us about the details, to speak to us on a higher political level, we are going to solve the problems. I think the solutions by and large, are known to us. It is much more complicated with the Palestinians. With Syrians everybody knows more or less what would be the solution. With the Palestinians we have a process, close relations, we are still far from having the solution. With the Syrians, we do have a solution but we don't have a real process. And that is much more problematic because eventually, the process is conducive to a real solution, but if you have only a solution but no process, the solution becomes untenable, but once they decide to talk seriously, it shouldn't take long. That is why I am still optimistic about the option of having peace with Syria which is for us very very important, in the coming five months.

Without having peace with Syria, we would continue to have an open wound in Lebanon, since it is totally dependent on Syria and that is an ongoing problem for us which we would like to put an end to. And we have no territorial claims whatsoever in Lebanon.

Q: The pretext for the transitional period with the Palestinians was building confidence, but there is no confidence building taking place in the past period, rather an increase in the level of violence. Why not begin final status negotiations now?

A: First of all, I have never believed in CBM's (confidence building measures), never. It seemed to me as a platitude, a substitute for the real thing. I believe in peace, I don't believe in a love affair, in that respect, you know, for many people it was a kind of substitute. They say let us see, let us do some thing, today let us enable the Palestinians to take through the bridge 5000 dinars instead of 500 dinars, as if it may change the world. It might make things easier, but it doesn't change the world, I think that what we have to do is to have peace. If we don't, all these CBM's will come artificial and frustrating. Once we have peace, then we would need CBM's: Gestures, educational process and cultural process... as we have now between Jordan and Israel... In order to make peace you don't have to have early confidence building measures. And as negotiators, what kind of confidence building measures can you have...? There are riots, people are throwing stones at you, you are using tear gas and what not. They say don't react to a certain action. That is not possible.

Q: Are then calling for immediately entering final status talks?

A: Yes. Q: But you have problems with achieving a consensus on that in your government? A: No. First of all we signed an agreement which refers to stages. That is why it is very difficult. The second thing is that the Palestinians have not said a final word about it. There is no consent in the Palestinian camp that we should go directly to a permanent solution. I had a very interesting debate two months ago in Jerusalem with a good friend of mine, Abu Ala' supported permanent solution and he said no, let us to it stage by stage. So, on both sides, there is a kind of debate on the issue of permanent solution. The counter-argument is that if you tackle immediately the major issues of the permanent solution such as Jerusalem, and you find there is no way to agree, you may harm not only the prospects for the implementation of the permanent solution but also the

prospects for an interim solution, and you would actually be without anything. That is a very strong argument, I must admit. Q: Could you clarify this act and mouse game about the NPT and Israel's refusal to join and its claim that it would not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the region?

A: Our policy means that in our part of the world, when some countries proved to have some nuclear capabilities despite signing the NPT, it would be wrong for us to sign it and to expose the countries of the region to international inspection. We prefer to have a regional agreement according to which, the nuclear-free zone would be the second floor of the peace process. Once we have peace with our neighbours, that would be the right time to negotiate a region which is free of mass destruction weapons, including nuclear weapons, and that would be open to mutual inspections and verifications.

Q: Are you only talking about your immediate neighbours or others such as Iran and Iraq? Where do you draw the line? A: As you understand, speaking about nuclear weapons, it is not just the proximity, it may take place from farther bases. I don't want to enter now into this very difficult and interesting question of where do you draw the line, but it is not only our immediate neighbours, that is true. Now only when we have peace, we can trust the other side to verify the situation in Israel and on the other side. But there is also a very important issue which I don't want to ignore which is perhaps one of the most delicate issues on the agenda. We are now in one of the most difficult historical controversies. It is not very simple for us. We are changing the map, we are creating a new agenda for Israel.

Q: As touching the Israeli society, what points in Israeli society which refer to symbols and which is nothing more difficult than referring to symbols. And we are having a very very tough debate at home. Those of our neighbours who believe that today it is not enough to speak to Israel about territorial compromises but that is the proper time to deal with its perceived arrogance, are doing the wrong thing if they really want to have peace, especially that we are quite outspoken about our readiness for this kind of two floors of peace: the first one is to make peace, and we know we are going to pay a very high price for peace and the second one is to have a nuclear-free zone in our part of the world. We have proved that we are not just trying with words, we are very serious about it. But to put pressure on Israel today to deal with both these issues in a parallel way is another way to say to us let us stop the peace process.

Q: What about Iraq and reports of Israel considering bringing Iraq into the peace process eventually?

A: Well, we, of course, do not exclude Iraq. It is a very important country in our part of the world. It is not an emotional issue nor a personal issue with the current leadership of Iraq. And we hope very much to have eventually full peace not only with our immediate neighbour but also with countries like Iraq. The question today is a different one. Whether we should have international sanctions. And here our answer is very clear. As long as these sanctions are there, we are not going to breach them... Once these sanctions are moved, if you ask me personally, I would be one of those who would advocate relations with Iraq if they are ready to have them with us.

Q: Regardless of the regime? A: Regardless of the regime. We did not elect any leader of our neighbours, they did not. We have to comply with the regime as long as this regime is acting according to international norms. It goes for Iraq, it goes for Libya, and any other country.

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German excavations fill in gaps in historical development of Gadara (Umm Qais)

This is the second article of a two-part series; part one appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

Text and photos by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

ONE OF the most fascinating recent discoveries at Gadara (Umm Qais) is the Greco-Roman system of water tunnels carved beneath the citadel hill, and used to channel water from the spring east of the city to the city-centre. The two tunnels are each some 400 metres long because of their winding passage through the hill. They varied in height from 160 cm to nearly two metres, and in width from 100 cm to over 150 cm. The tunnels have both been fully excavated, but are closed for safety reasons. Plans are being made to provide access for visitors to a short stretch of one tunnel.

One of the tunnels was completed and used, the second was fully dug but never completely finished inside or used. Visitors can appreciate the tunnels by inspecting their entrances, which also show the excavation techniques used to dig them. Just down the path leading east from the museum, near the entrance to a tomb, is the entrance to the tunnel that was completed and used. The artificially built channel approaching the hillside gradually changes into a cut channel and then into a tunnel fully dug out of the natural rock. Still visible on the walls are trowel marks from the plasterers in Roman times.

A few metres to the east of the tomb and tunnel entrances, directly beneath the walking path leading to the museum, are the remains of one of the arches that carried the aqueduct over the shallow valley immediately to the east. Ms. Kerner's team identified 11 piers that once formed the supports for the arches that carried the aqueduct, but no full arches remain standing today. The aqueduct was the last stretch of a channel that brought water to Gadara from the 'Ain el-Tar spring, some 11 kilometres to the east.

From the aqueduct, water passed into a small distribution system that included a weir that was opened or closed by hand to control the flow of water into the tunnels. On the surface of the path are visible two stones with two notches in them (two other matching stones are longer there); thin basalt slabs were inserted into the notches to control the water flow.

Inside the tunnels, the walls and floors were fully plastered, and every 30-35 metres there is a cut entrance/exit tunnel going up to the surface of the ground, with a rock-cut



The entrance to one of the water tunnels, next to the door of a tomb

staircase. Many large niches filled with concrete throughout the tunnels may have been designed to stabilise the walls. Pipes exit the tunnels at regular intervals and head in a northerly direction, but these have not been located or traced within the city. They probably supplied the northern residential quarters of the city. At one point inside the hill, the two tunnels cross over one another.

The tunnel that was completed and used has a distribution point just a few metres in from its exit from the hill. This consisted of the main, 1.6-metre-deep water channel; a second, smaller channel (comprising ceramic pipes) that was used when excess water was available; and a third channel that paralleled the main channel and shared a built wall with it, and that was only used when excess water was available from the first two channels.

The two main water tunnels entered the city at two points: the unfinished one entered behind the terrace church (east of the collapsed terrace wall) and the finished one ended at a point behind the north-east corner of the terrace, next to the staircase to the rest-house. This latter entry

point into the city comprised a small weir to divert water, and some ceramic pipes and smaller rock-cut channels that carried the water into various quarters of the city.

Similar water tunnels have been studied in other parts of the country, including Abila, Beit Ras and Zarakhun. The Umm Qais system cannot be dated any more precisely than the late Hellenistic/early Roman period; though ceramic and other material remains were found inside the tunnels, these could not be used to firmly date the structures, because the remains could have entered the tunnels at any time. There are no foundation trenches to help date the construction, as the tunnels were cut directly into the bedrock.

A theory now being assessed is that the second tunnel was dug in the 3rd century AD, when the city expansion also included the construction of the hippodrome and monumental gate at its western end. Those structures were never completed due to lack of finances in a politically difficult period, and the second tunnel project was probably stopped for the same reason.

Clearing the Roman theatre

One of the most striking pieces of work underway at Umm Qais is the clearance of the black basalt theatre. Simple clearance of the tumbled stones has exposed parts of the orchestra and seats, making the theatre even more impressive than ever before in recent history. Names of individuals, have been identified on some seats throughout the theatre, probably reflecting their "ownership" of the seats. Excavations by the Department of Antiquities have shown that the orchestra was once paved in white marble, and the stage may have been made of wood (as was the case at the small North Theatre in Jerash).

The German embassy in Amman has financed two years of work by two German architects who have been drawing up proposals for the long-term conservation of the theatre.

Some of the material remains from the new excavations can be seen in the museum that is continuously expanding at Umm Qais. Especially interesting is a small piece of late 4th/early 3rd century pottery with glass glazed decoration from Egypt, and another

small fragment with Greek writing, both of which help pin down the Ptolemaic foundation of the city.

A long gallery displays some of the finest statues excavated at the site, and a new room is being prepared to display some of the smaller finds, including pottery, bone pieces, a tabun, and lead and clay water pipes.

In the courtyard west of the museum, a new vaulted display has been built to display some of the mosaic floors excavated from the baths of Harakleides in the 1980s by Dr. Ute Wagner-Lux. The 4th-6th century AD geometric pattern mosaics include a Greek inscription noting that bathers were welcomed to the baths by a certain Gadarene nobleman named Harakleides, who paid for the construction of the complex.

The work of the last five years has been financed by the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land, the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the German Research Foundation, the German Foreign Ministry via the German Embassy in Amman, the Technical University at Cottbus and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Filling in historical gaps

Perhaps the historically most significant aspect of the work that has been carried out in the last five years at Umm Qais has been the discovery of substantial remains from three kinds of ancient structures and two periods that are not well documented in Jordan: Roman era domestic quarters, Hellenistic period monumental architecture (city walls), and Hellenistic/Roman era water systems.

Though Jordan has substantial remains of several Greco-Roman cities that were members of the regional association of cities known as the Decapolis, no significant Roman bousing areas had ever been excavated before the recent work at Umm Qais. The full analysis of the pottery and other material remains from Umm Qais will allow for a more precise reconstruction of the material history of the city dwellers over a period of nearly one thousand years, from the early 3rd century BC to the early 7th century AD.

One of the areas that will provide much analytical

material is a comparison of local and imported pottery shapes, especially as the imported wares (such as the terra sigillata) are very precisely dated and will allow for better dating of local pottery forms. Ms. Kerner notes that her team's initial field observations show that the local people at Umm Qais were copying pottery vessels that were imported from Greece and Rome, but were unable to produce the exact quality of the imports (probably due to the differences in available clay and finishing materials).

The work that Adolf Hoffman has done on the city walls is clarifying the expansion (and possible contraction) of the city over the centuries. Later this year he will carry out a comprehensive survey of the ancient city walls, in order to delineate the size and shape of the city as it changed over time.

The wall paintings in the Roman era domestic quarters are also particularly important, even enigmatic: it seems peculiar to find such good quality paintings covering all the walls of what appear to be rather modest, ordinary homes, and not monumental public

buildings or large, ornate villas where one would expect to find such paintings. Ms. Kerner is now studying parallels from other parts of this region, such as those known from southern Turkey, to come up with an explanation for the Gadara house paintings.

The substantial Hellenistic city wall remains and the water tunnels may prompt a revision of the traditional history of Jordan, whose only previously known Hellenistic era monuments were the palace at Iraq el-Amir, near Wadi Seer west of Amman, the Hellenistic Zeus Sanctuary still being excavated at Jerash, and partial architectural remains at Pella and Petra. The extensive rebuilding of city sites in the Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic periods usually removed any traces of earlier Hellenistic structures, but the new work at Umm Qais now raises a faint hope of one day finding a Hellenistic house, or even a neighbourhood within the city walls. This makes the task of preserving and presenting the excavated antiquities to local and international visitors even more important, given the rarity of good quality Hellenistic remains in Jordan.

Serbs torch Zepa

(Continued from page 1)

fight," he said. "Now we have a very serious situation with the Croat army operating inside Bosnia as well."

Calling a U.N. pullout a "nightmare scenario," he said it might nevertheless be inevitable and would involve sending in 60,000 men to get 30,000 out. In a warning to Croatia, Krajina Serb army commander General Mile Mrksic told the U.N. commander for former Yugoslavia, General Bernard Janvier of France, that his forces would "no longer tolerate Croatian provocations and would hold the peacekeeping troops and the international community responsible for the consequences of the Croatian attacks."

Krajina Serb "president" Milan Martić — who was charged with war crimes by a U.N. tribunal this week — wrote to the U.N. Security Council accusing the Croats of committing atrocities against Serb civilians, Mr. Tanjug reported.

Congress vote on lifting arms

In Washington, the U.S. House of Representatives will likely vote early Monday on lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia, the head of a key congressional panel said Friday.

"We're about to go to the Rules Committee in an hour and ask that it be put on the

agenda) as early as possible next week," Benjamin A. Gilman, Chairman of the International Relations Committee, told reporters.

Rep. Chris Smith, a leading Republican member of the Foreign Affairs panel, predicted there would be enough votes not only to approve the bill, but to pass over the expected veto from President Clinton. That would require a two-thirds vote.

He said the vote could come as early as next Monday. The bill to lift the U.N. embargo passed the Senate earlier last week by 69 votes, two more than would be needed to override a presidential veto. But some senators may change their vote if the comes.

Passage of matching legislation by the house is a virtual certainty. Last month, the House overwhelmingly approved a non-binding measure to repeal the embargo. Meanwhile, U.S. officials have moved swiftly to forestall more strains with U.S. allies over Bosnia by denying news reports saying that the U.S. was supplying arms to the Bosnian government.

But Mr. Clinton's press secretary Michael McCurry said that the administration had some information about arms transfers into Bosnia. He said it was possible some U.S.-made arms were shipped. "But if it has happened, that would have been done

without permission from the U.S. government and in violation of the existing agreements we have with the countries to whom we transfer U.S. military equipment," Mr. McCurry said.

"Most of the equipment and the small arms that are being used in the conflict right now are of eastern origin," he added.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, who arrived for talks here Friday, denied his country was receiving weapons from the United States but conceded that it was smuggling in light weaponry.

"Had we taken the arms embargo seriously, we would be all dead now in Bosnia," said Mr. Silajdzic. Meanwhile, officials in Cairo, said that Egypt wants the international contact group on Bosnia to meet with its counterpart from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

A joint meeting would discuss "the deterioration of the situation in Bosnia under the

Serbs' aggression against safe areas and adopt a common stand on preserving Bosnia's sovereignty and independence," one official said.

The OIC contact group, to help the Bosnian Muslims, has decided to ignore the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia in force since 1991.

In Turkey, more than 50,000 Islamists staged a demonstration in central Turkey on Saturday to protest against the embargo.

Witnesses said the demonstrators in Konya City, a stronghold of the Islamist Welfare Party (RP), burned U.S. and U.N. flags as they shouted "Allah-u Akbar" and demanded an immediate end to the embargo.

RP leader Necmettin Erbakan told the demonstrators "a military operation to rescue Bosnians from the invading Serbs was already too late."

Police said the demonstrators, who waved green banners with Writings in Arabic, dispersed peacefully.

Israel to lift

(Continued from page 1)

militant groups opposed to peace, "just as we expect from ourselves... to improve the tools, the means, to fight terrorism."

Mr. Rabin said Israel fears a fresh wave of suicide bombings by unidentified assassins after an attack on the Tel Aviv.

"There is perhaps a new type of terrorist attack, because there has not been a claim of responsibility" fol-

lowing the bus bombing on Monday at Ramat Gan, Mr. Rabin told state radio.

He said it was possible the group behind the attack had failed to produce the usual video identifying the suicide bomber either to prevent political damage to the Palestinian Authority or because the bomber had come from abroad.

"Maybe the terrorist came from abroad. But even if that is the case, he certainly benefited from help on the ground," said Mr. Rabin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Prince discusses trade cooperation with Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister flew in Saturday to discuss trade and transport agreements and other bilateral and regional issues with Syrian officials. Shortly after his arrival Prince Saud Al Faisal and his counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa, convened a Saudi-Syrian joint committee created two years ago to promote cooperation between the two countries. Prince Saud told the meeting that he hoped the discussions would lead to an increase in trade and promote plans that would facilitate land transport and upgrade air flights between the two countries.

Katyushas crash on Israel's 'security zone'

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AFP) — Three Katyusha rockets crashed onto Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, without causing injuries, an Israeli-backed militia said Saturday. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia's radio said the rockets exploded late Friday near a hospital in Marjayoun, where the Israeli army and the SLA have their headquarters in the border zone. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Marjayoun is often the target of Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas fighting against Israeli occupation.

UAE telethon raises \$43 million for Bosnia

ABU DHABI (AP) — A nationwide telethon for the Muslims of Bosnia raised more than 158 dirhams (\$43 million) in donations and pledges, announced said Saturday. The midday-to-midnight telethon Friday was extended several hours because of offers continued to pour in with contributions and pledges exceeding expectations. The UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, said at the outset he hoped the fund-raiser would draw at least twice the government's donation of 40 million dirhams (\$11 million). Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic praised the telethon campaign in a live interview from Washington. "It's not only a campaign to collect donations, but it's a principle stand on the part of UAE which deserves respect and appreciation," Mr. Silajdzic said.

Iraq plans to build tunnel under Tigris

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq plans to build its first tunnel under the Tigris River running through the capital. Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan announced Saturday. General Hassan, who also heads the country's Military Industrialisation Organisation, said the work in southern Baghdad would start within days. Baghdad has 12 bridges over the Tigris, eight of which were damaged or destroyed in air raids during the 1991 Gulf war. They were rebuilt within 18 months, despite the U.N. embargo in force since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Fateh beats Hamas in Gaza election

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh movement beat Hamas to win the elections of the largest professional association in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian officials announced Saturday. They said Fateh, allied with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), another PLO faction which normally sides with the opposition, won seven out of nine seats in the Accountant's Association elections. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which both oppose the PLO's autonomy deal with Israel like the PFLP, won the other two seats. Bayan Abu Shaaban of Fateh became president and a Hamas member his deputy. Hamas has for the last six years controlled all nine seats in the 1,500-member association, which holds elections every two years.

China pledges no more nuclear tests after 1996

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — China pledged Saturday that it would halt its nuclear tests next year after the signing of a test ban treaty as China and France came under renewed fire for breaking a moratorium. Asked about ASEAN concern over the tests, Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofeng said "we will stop nuclear testing after the signing of the comprehensive ban" expected next year. Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting in Brunei expressed their concern in opening speeches at nuclear tests by China and by France, which is to resume testing in the Pacific in September.

ASEAN moves closer to free trade zone

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah opened the annual Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting here Saturday with a call for the creation of a free trade area in the region by 2000, three years ahead of schedule.

Cautioning that other regions were already overtaking ASEAN in economic cooperation and were liberalising their economies to attract investment, the sultan said ASEAN "must respond to this competition."

ASEAN has already accelerated an original 15-year timetable for trade liberalisation among its members, bringing it forward by five years to 2003. But the sultan said this was not enough.

"When ASEAN leaders meet (in a summit) in Bangkok in December this year, I hope ASEAN will be able to announce the completion of AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) by the year 2000," he said.

ASEAN states, he added, had to "take some risk with our overprotected domestic industries if we are not to be left behind."

ASEAN members said that speeding up implementation of AFTA was desirable but presented some challenges, related to the wide divergences in the economies of member states and their strong domestic industry lobbies.

"If we can have it faster, so much the better," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said.

"The year 2003 is merely indicative. The sooner the elimination of trade barriers is completed, the sooner we can reap the benefits," Thai Foreign Minister Kasem Kasemsri told the conference.

Speeding up the programme would put greater pressure on ASEAN's latest entry, Vietnam, which has been given until 2006 to catch up with other members because it is still in a transition to a market economy.

But ASEAN states said this was no obstacle and they had always anticipated a two-speed process as potential new members Burma, Cambodia and Laos prepare to join into a Southeast Asia community of 10 by the year 2000.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he foresaw no immediate problems. "Vietnam will be able to catch up. They're hard-working people," he said.

There would be a "period of adjustment for those joining later," said the Malaysian ministry's secretary-general, Ahmad Kamil Jaafar.

ASEAN now groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Cambodia this week joined Laos as an official observer. Burma is attending for the second year as a guest of the host government.

Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavath Lengsavad announced Saturday that his

country wanted to become a member by 1997.

The sultan meanwhile urged the group to remain vigilant in maintaining the peace and stability that has allowed it to prosper. "We cannot relax our effort to maintain Southeast Asia as a zone of peace," he held.

He called on ASEAN to anticipate problems and not wait for them to happen.

"The post-cold war war honeymoon phase is over," he said, citing potential problems over human rights, democracy, trade, intellectual property rights and investments.

He also mentioned possible problems over "rights of sea and air passage which have been challenged," apparently referring to territorial disputes involving ASEAN members and outsiders.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, China and Taiwan are involved in a dispute over the Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

The ASEAN ministers were scheduled to hold closed-door sessions later Saturday and all day Sunday.

On Tuesday, the ASEAN Regional Forum is to hold its second annual meeting bringing 19 countries together to discuss security issues.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the ASEAN states will hold their annual dialogue with major trading partners Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, South Korea and Canada.

Kuwait Islamic firm to launch property fund

KUWAIT (R) — The International Investor (ITI), a Kuwait Islamic finance firm, said on Saturday it would launch a \$43.3 million fund for investment in property that it would buy from the state.

"The fund's capital amounts to 13 million dinars (\$43.3 million) with 13 million units of one dinar (\$3.3)," ITI said in a statement announcing the August 5 launch.

"The fund will buy a number of commercial and investment properties that have been determined in negotiation with the Kuwait investment authority," it said, referring to the government's investment arm KIA.

The government in 1991 announced wide-ranging plans to sell the KIA's stake in about 60 local concerns and state services to revive the sluggish economy, expand the private sector's role in the economy and replenish Gulf war-drained state coffers.

ITI said the fund would be managed by ITI but marketed by Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the country's biggest Islamic finance company.

The fund will be run according to Islamic finance rules under which profits are shared with investors in place of interest payments, which are banned, it said.

Major global pact on financial services endorsed

GENEVA (AP) — With the United States sitting on the sidelines, the world's key trading nations formally agreed Friday to make it easier for banks, insurance companies and securities firms to do business globally.

Trade analysts say the most visible effect in many countries will be the appearance of more foreign banks, securities firms and insurance companies.

The accord, which had been in the works for years, came after Japan and South Korea agreed Wednesday to participate. They had balked previously, saying an accord without the United States would give U.S. companies a free ride on world markets.

It was the first trade pact completed under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the new global trade referee created on Jan. 1. It was also the first major trade agreement since World War II that lacked full American participation.

The WTO's director-general, Renato Ruggiero, applauded the deal as a "step towards a more integrated world and a better globalised economy." He conceded, however, that the American lack of participation meant the accord could be only "second best."

The United States withdrew from negotiations in June because it wanted to reserve the right to close its markets to countries it believes are too protectionist and use trade sanctions against them. The U.S. financial services market is already relatively open.

American businesses will still benefit from the deal because it will apply to the more than 100 members of the World Trade Organisation — including the United States, Japan, Canada and the European Union, the world's four major traders.

Under the accord made formal on Friday, more than 40 key trading countries — including Japan and the European Union — committed themselves to the so-called most-favoured-nation principle in extending access to their markets in banking, insurance and securities.

That means that the benefits have to be extended to other countries with most-favoured-nation status as well. The United States has extended rights on a country-by-country basis, but refused to grant blanket access.

"Before we decided to enter the agreement, we really were trying to get as many other countries as possible to join, including, of course, the United States," said Japanese finance ministry official Norihiro Takasugi. "Without the United States, the agreement is diminished somewhat."

Financial services, considered an enormous and growing world market, were excluded from a global trade

pact in 1993 because the United States felt some developing countries had failed to open their markets sufficiently.

The developing nations argued they needed more time to build up their domestic markets before opening them up to foreign competition.

The United States had seemed on its way to agreeing to the accord but pulled out after opposition mounted from U.S. business interests and the Congress.

The accord expires at the end of 1997, by which time a permanent agreement is to be negotiated. U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the United States would participate in those talks.

The accord was welcomed in Asia and in Europe.

British Trade Secretary Ian Lang called it "tremendous news for Britain ... good news, too, for the European Union ... and good for the

world trading system."

Michael Cartland, the Hong Kong government's chief of financial services, lamented the U.S. pullout but said "at least this result brings everyone else together, and that's better than nothing, better than a breakdown."

The deal does not include the huge markets of China and Russia, which are still negotiating membership in the WTO.

In the action Friday, the following WTO members agreed to ratify the accord by June 30, 1996: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and the 15 countries of the European Union.

Oman boosts oil output to record level

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman has introduced advanced technology to boost crude production to its highest level since the Gulf state discovered oil nearly two decades ago, an official report said on Saturday.

Production peaked at 853,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the end of May compared with an average 800,000 bpd in 1994, said the report by Oman Petroleum Development (OPD), which controls the country's energy sector.

OPD alone produced around 804,000 bpd in May while the rest came from foreign oil companies operating in Oman, it said.

Production by the company reached a record level in the week that ended on May 24, standing at 811,000 bpd. The company has

achieved the production target it had set early this year," the report said.

It put crude reserves at around 4.94 billion barrels and gas at 600 billion cubic metres.

According to the report, OPD has introduced the advanced horizontal drilling techniques, which costs more than the vertical drilling but yields as much as four times. The horizontal technique was employed in about 90 per cent of the development wells drilled recently, it said.

Oman is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but it has played a leading role in bridging the gap between the 12-nation cartel and independent oil producers on output and pricing policies.

Despite a steady increase in Oman's crude production, reserves have sharply increased over the past decade after major discoveries.

Early this month, the government granted a new concession to the French Total company with an area of 26,000 square kilometres.

"More concessions will be offered to oil companies in the next few months. This will hopefully boost our crude reserves," an official told AFP.

Oman is also planning to build an \$8 billion gas liquefaction plant with an output capacity of around six million tonnes per year. It will be its first LNG project and the third in the Gulf after that in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and a planned complex in Qatar.

World oil prices lower

LONDON (R) — World oil prices fell late on Friday as a rally in the U.S. faded but failed to dent a consolidation of gains achieved earlier in the week.

September London futures for Benchmark North Sea Brent blend closed down 10 cents at \$16.01 a barrel.

"A close above \$15.96/\$15.98 means Brent is still in a higher range, but it's not explosively bullish," said Allstar Harris of London Broker Mees Pierson.

Traders said U.S. demand for Transatlantic crude imports remained a key factor after a large weekly draw in U.S. crude stocks sparked Brent's recovery from Monday's 10-month lows.

U.S. crude stocks now around 20 million barrels lower than a year ago may have reached a floor.

"We may be getting very close to living with low stocks nowadays, but it can't go on for ever," one trader with a U.S. refining company said.

Mild early losses on Friday were reversed when news of a fire at a Texas oil refining unit gave U.S. gasoline markets a lift.

Four fires at U.S. Gulf Coast refineries over the past two weeks have helped revive western petroleum products markets.

But Friday's rally was short-lived as plentiful supplies of gasoline in the U.S. at the height of the summer driving season exerted downward pressure on prices.

Coffee prices slide

LONDON (R) — Coffee prices extended a slide on Friday, surrendering gains made earlier this week when Brazil and other producer nations struck a deal to try to curb exports.

London September-delivery robusta futures ended at \$2.685 per tonne, down from almost \$2.825 on Wednesday, as speculators took profits.

Wednesday's advance in coffee prices followed news that the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) had set a limit on exports of 60.4 million bags for the year to June 1996.

The price now compares with \$2.700 on the eve of the ACPC talks. But analysts add that an expectation that the producers would act had been built in to that price.

Prices are also still well above early July values that were scarcely higher than \$2.000 before Brazil and Colombia, the biggest exporters, put together the groundwork for this week's ACPC accord.

"The supply side look increasingly tight over coming months," said brokerage GNI.

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS

- 1 Bridges
- 5 Dunderhead
- 8 Relinquish, as an office
- 13 Hebrew measure
- 14 Cork site
- 16 Equivocate
- 17 Beverage nut
- 18 British P.M., once
- 19 More elegant
- 20 Harrow rival
- 21 Mexican emperor
- 23 Washington
- 25 Elvis to some
- 26 NFL Hall-of-Famer Bobby
- 28 Insect
- 33 Rich Little, for one
- 36 Cobras
- 38 Bassoon cousin
- 39 Embarrassed
- 41 John and Yoko
- 43 Ostentation
- 44 Buddhist monk
- 46 Long-running Broadway play
- 47 Notorious bloodsucker
- 49 Loire Valley region
- 51 Augury
- 53 Combines
- 57 Infamous inquisitor
- 62 Alien pret
- 63 "Hiroshima, Mon"
- 64 Borodin prince
- 65 Preminger
- 66 Crazed
- 67 Rough-hewn
- 68 Allowance for waste
- 69 Babble on
- 70 Woodsman's tool
- 71 All — (acutely attentive)

DOWN

- 2 Bantered
- 3 Overact
- 4 Lawbreaker
- 4 Composer of rhapsodies
- 5 Proper
- 6 Verdi heroine
- 7 College chiefs
- 8 Pollute
- 9 Wickedness
- 10 "The — Love"
- 11 The very —
- 12 Fork-tailed bird
- 15 Novelist
- 22 Telegraph man
- 24 Apiece
- 27 Nothing in Nogales
- 29 Woeful knight
- 30 — Ben Adhem
- 31 Not upper-class, in England
- 32 Hardy heroine
- 33 Trading center
- 34 Long-billed bird
- 35 Jane to Tarzan
- 37 Blueprint
- 40 — ligs
- 42 Gaseous element
- 45 Central
- 48 Fount
- 50 Successor to 21A
- 52 Arab prince
- 54 Tropical lish
- 55 Stale direction
- 56 Smudges
- 57 Pack down
- 58 — Khayyam
- 59 Columnist
- 60 Bow out
- 61 Connecticut senator

Puzzle solved:

SITARKELBOWITKO
ORIONPERLHEND
WINOOWISHAOEELL
SLOTTHIOROIPPY
ATOMTEETH
RIFLESHALROACH
ACRTOGILLSTNRA
OILETLARUESTEM
LEERAZESQUEOTIE
OYSTEROOPUMMEL
PUNKSCHAP
TRINEAUERSPA
EJARGHOSWIRITER
ELIERIEEVERIT
METSMEARLEWIS

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 29, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look to a friend who is an original thinker for the help you need to become more successful today. Be clever in gaining a desired wish.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to gain more prestige where it is of greatest value to you, and later today join with good friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Gain better philosophical understanding this morning, and then you can be with friends for a delightful time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do something charming for your mate this morning, then you can be off with congenial friends and have fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get it touch with fascinating individuals today you want to be in your life. Be more willing to go along with their ideas and, be jappy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some special thought for a shut-in would be greatly appreciated. Then be with partners and enjoy their company.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Early today plan amusements, and get busy at duties ahead of you and complete them. Show your mate that you have a sense of humour.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use more enthusiasm with your loved ones this morning and take them out for amusements later today and be happier together.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time today to study those new ideas you get before relaxing with your family. Take a little trip with close friends and family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You get a fine idea how to increase your abundance during the daytime, and later tonight you can start the wheels rolling in the right direction.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You get unusually fine ideas this morning, so plan how to put them in operation quickly and get good results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are highly inspired today how to gain your finest goals so do something about them and gain advice from an expert.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

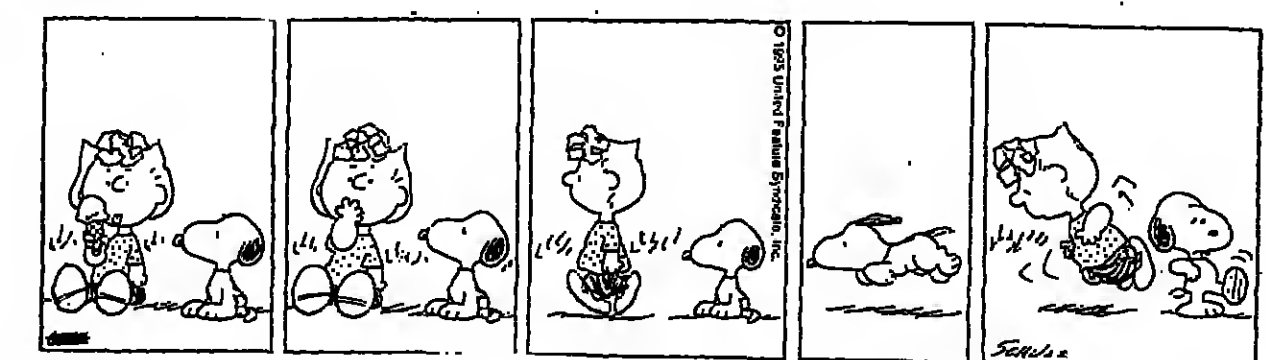
SWOHE
NENLI
FONTY
PLAICH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

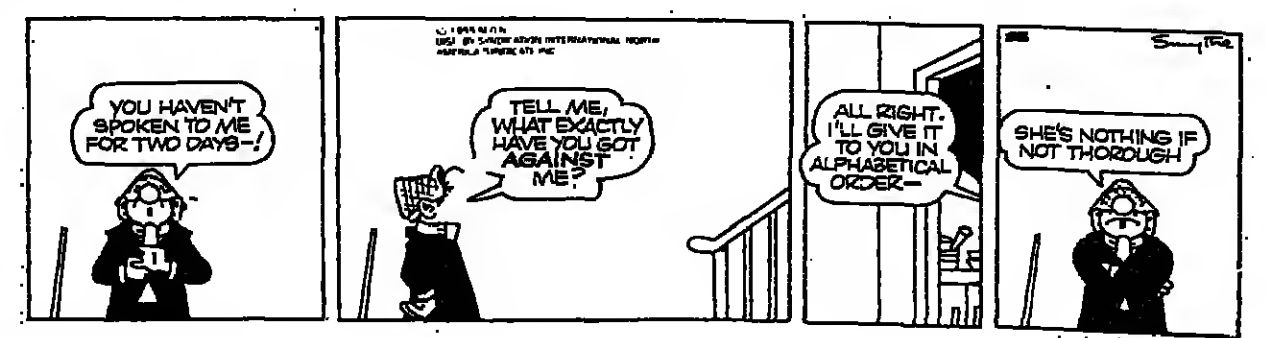
Answer: AT THE

Saturday's Jumbles: BLIMP FACET BEAFEN VERBAL
Answer: Why the cartoonist could not fall — HE WAS BENT ON FAME

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



The Ministry of Education has announced a list of teachers who will receive housing loans during June. The list includes teachers appointed in 1969. Mr. Dibb said this group will all the paper work to obtain the loans at the end of August (A.R.).

The Amman Council of Industry received a list from the Ministry of Finance indicating Jordanian goods can benefit from reductions in Japanese import duties in accordance with preferential systems help developing countries (A.R.).

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Forged permits for trucks threaten transport sector

Ministry of Transport Officials have confirmed that several forged permits used by trucks to transit Jordan on their way to Arab Gulf countries were discovered. The officials, who were stationed at border crossing points in the north and south of the Kingdom for a 24-hour period, said out of 18 foreign-registered trucks crossing the borders to the Gulf countries, only one had an authentic permit while the rest had forged permits. The issue surfaced after Jordanian truckers complained that foreign truckers were using forged papers to cross Jordan into the neighbouring countries, thus hurting their business. A Jordanian transport office was notified of this fact by its branch in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, complaining that the large number of foreign trucks were posing a great danger to the Jordanian transport sector and national economy as a whole. Officials granting permits at the ministry, who confirmed the forgeries, said they were granting only one or two permits a day to foreign truckers and five to Jordanian counterparts. Another ministry official said all forged documents were referred to the Prosecutor-General for investigation. Director of the North Refrigerated Trucks Services Company Abdul Rahim Al Jammal called on the government to clamp down on all forgery cases which, he said, harm the Kingdom's transport sector and national economy. Mr. Jammal blamed the ministry for not doing enough to deal with the issue, noting that last year, 103 forged permits were referred to it but did nothing about them (Al Dustour).

** The Ministry of Education has allocated funds enough to grant 600 teachers loans to establish housing units during this year. Director of the ministry's Teachers' Housing Fund Hamdan Al Dib'i said, Mr. Dib'i said the ministry will soon announce the names of the second group of beneficiaries, expected to total 200. He said the first group of beneficiaries totalled 90 teachers who obtained loans worth JD 1,301,000 during June. Saying the second group will include teachers appointed in 1968 and 1969, Mr. Dib'i added that this group will finish all the paper work to obtain the loans at the beginning of August (Al Ra'i).

** The Amman Chamber of Industry recently received a list from the Ministry of Finance defining Jordanian goods that can benefit from customs reductions in Japan in accordance with preferential treatment systems adopted by advanced countries to help developing ones (Al Ra'i).

BCCI appeal trial set to resume

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Several defendants in the BCCI case are to appear in court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) capital on Sunday for a fresh appeal session. Court sources said the trial at the Abu Dhabi criminal court would again be held behind closed doors and 10 former executives of the liquidated Bank of Credit and Commerce International were to attend. Three others are being tried in absentia: former chief executive, Mohammad Swaleh Naqvi, BCCI founder Agha Hassan Abedi and former treasurer Ziauddin Ali Akbar, all of Pakistani origin. The defendants were convicted in 1993 of several charges including embezzlement, forgery, breach of trust, dissipation of funds, irregular allocation of dividends and other offences. They were sentenced in 1994 to prison terms ranging between three and 14 years and ordered to pay around \$9 billion in damages to UAE. President Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan and other BCCI owners. Hearings resumed after both the prosecution and defence appealed against the verdicts, with the former seeking tougher punishment. Three of the defendants are still in jail while five others have been released after completing their prison terms. Another executive was set free for health reasons while one defendant was acquitted. All of them were to appear in court and those released

have been barred from leaving the country. Mr. Naqvi was sentenced to 14 years in jail just after he was handed over to the United States to stand trial in connection with the BCCI collapse. He was sentenced for 11 years in prison by a Washington court last year. Mr. Abedi has retired to his hometown of Lahore since he suffered from a stroke nearly three years ago, while Mr. Akbar was jailed for six years by a British court in 1993 after he was convicted of charges related to the BCCI scandal. At the last appeal hearing on June 14, the Abu Dhabi court rejected defence requests to release the three jailed defendants on health grounds. The adjournment was to allow prosecution and defence to present more documents. BCCI was shut down in July 1991 after allegations of massive fraud involving nearly half its assets of more than \$20 billion. Its closure and subsequent liquidation triggered a major financial scandal and sent shock waves through banks, mainly in the Gulf. More than 250,000 depositors are still awaiting the compensation after an appeal by four creditors at a Luxembourg court this year blocked disbursements. The court is due to consider the appeal in October. Abu Dhabi, the main oil-producing emirate in the UAE, owned 77 per cent of BCCI, which was one of the leading financial institutions in the world.

Journalist wins libel case against government

LONDON (AFP) — A British journalist won a libel case Friday against the British government when the High Court ruled that ministers in the Department of Trade and Industry had inaccurately assessed his report into the trade of instruments of torture. Mariyn Gregory was awarded 40,000 pounds (\$64,000) damages and 15,000 pounds (\$24,000) costs by the High Court, after the government climbed down over remarks made on the report by Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine and two other ministers. The ministry called the report "contrived" and "scaremongering" prompting Mr. Gregory's legal action. "I am delighted the government has agreed that the letters written by Heseltine and his ministers were libellous nonsense," Mr. Gregory said. "This is an important victory for investigative journalism over a government that seems to have lost its moral authority. So much for the 'sword of truth'."

The Channel 4 documentary quoted employees at British Aerospace and International Procurement Services among others as saying the companies had supplied certain equipment, including instruments capable of producing electric shocks, to countries who might use them for torture. Mr. Gregory said the sales had all proceeded with the tacit approval of the British government. "Instead of investigating those who trade in weapons that can be used for torture, Heseltine and his ministers subjected the programme to a stream of abuse," Mr. Gregory said. After lashing out at the documentary, which was screened in January, the ministry said it had proof of the exports, particularly those to Saudi Arabia and China, had not taken place. But it was forced to recognise by the High Court ruling that Mr. Gregory's investigation had been thoroughly conducted, and that its criticism therefore was unjustified.

Lebanon expects large payments surplus

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Central Bank governor said in remarks published on Saturday he expected a balance of payments surplus in June and July would cancel a \$500 million deficit registered in the first five months of 1995. "It is true that the balance of payments registered a deficit of \$500 million in the first five months but there is nothing to prove that this trend is irreversible or a continuous one," Riad Salameh told the bi-weekly magazine Al Mousawir. "I think that the months of June and July will post a surplus which may cover all the deficit in the first five months," Mr. Salameh said expendi-

tures on infrastructural projects including airport, electricity and water were responsible for \$300 million of the January-May deficit. He said Lebanon's net domestic debt of \$5 billion stood at about 60 per cent of gross domestic product while the ratio in some industrialised countries was as high as 70 per cent. "Our external debt calculated at \$811 million plus the newly issued treasury bonds in dollar worth \$300 million... makes the least external debt among countries of the Middle East," Mr. Salameh said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 607171 - 607174				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 29/07/1995				
COMPANY NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JO	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	40	8560	213.000	214.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1300	8928	4.560	4.560
CATRO AMMAN BANK	700	2255	4.740	4.510
BANK OF JORDAN	1271	4294	3.380	3.380
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	700	903	1.330	1.290
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	10800	28922	2.820	2.520
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	56194	157339	2.810	2.800
JORDAN GULF BANK	500	275	1.180	1.150
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2676	9990	3.740	3.730
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	2500	20674	4.280	4.250
BUSINESS BANK	2800	10780	3.860	3.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	3900	3.960	3.900
RAIT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2150	7895	3.680	3.700
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20621	22155	1.080	1.070
WILLADEPPEL INVESTMENT BANK	1000	1640	1.640	1.640
BANKS SECTOR	103868	273874	INDEX NUMBER: 177.65	CHANGE: +0.22%
JORDAN INSURANCE	5000	16300	3.260	3.260
JORDAN FRANCHISE INSURANCE	1251	3479	2.700	2.660
INSURANCE SECTOR	6253	19779	INDEX NUMBER: 135.69	CHANGE: -0.09%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9020	24977	1.650	1.630
JORDAN MINERAL	800	1300	2.850	2.850
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	800	2280	2.860	2.850
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	112	121	1.080	1.040
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	320	370	1.170	1.160
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1242	1942	1.560	1.520
ZAKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	7550	10749	1.420	1.400
SERVICES SECTOR	19541	34101	INDEX NUMBER: 128.07	CHANGE: -0.35%
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	44	1286	30.000	31.500
ATTACHEE OSMAN. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	900	1067	1.170	1.190
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4359	20127	3.680	3.710
JORDAN FOODWAYS MEATS	14000	42210	3.000	3.020
THE ARAB POTASH	1100	5577	5.050	5.070
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	696	7324	10.590	10.500
JORDAN TANNING	151	1193	8.000	7.950
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	400	1635	3.300	3.320
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	500	3850	7.700	7.700
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	5123	25808	5.070	5.030
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1926	10656	5.330	5.330
DAR AL JADRA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3250	25128	7.720	7.780
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	5400	4843	2.200	2.160
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	4750	24087	5.100	5.070
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10500	5060	4.80	4.80
ARAB BANKING & TRADING	2000	2840	1.420	1.420
NATIONAL AERIAL INDUSTRIES	3000	8020	2.650	2.550
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	15076	35076	1.050	1.000
THE JORDANIAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	100	228	2.290	2.280
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	760	3.800	3.800
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	250	398	1.610	1.590
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1124	2436	2.200	2.160
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3100	26961	3.350	3.320
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2950	6139	2.090	2.060
JORDAN NEW CEMENT COMPANY	8452	14640	1.760	1.730
INTERNATIONAL VAMCO & CIGARETTES	5076	7259	1.450	1.430
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES	3847	12829	2.070	2.170
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	127725	350584	INDEX NUMBER: 129.01	CHANGE: +0.02%
GRAND TOTAL	257027	632817	INDEX NUMBER: 153.48	CHANGE: +0.11%
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Pedroso breaks long jump world record at Italian athletics meet

SESTRIERE, Italy (AFP) — Ivan Pedroso of Cuba leapt into history here Saturday when he long jumped 8.96m to break Mike Powell's world record.

But four-times world pole vault champion Sergey Bubka of Ukraine, with three unsuccessful attempts at 6.15m, and Britain's world record triple jumper Jonathan Edwards both failed to take advantage of Sestriere's thin air.

Pedroso, competing in an athletics stadium built 2.035 metres up in the Alps, bettered by one centimetre the 8.95m Powell set at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo where the American broke Bob Beamon's legendary mark of 8.90m that had stood since the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

However, doubts about the validity of his record were raised because two people were standing in front of the wind-measuring instrument when he jumped.

Meeting judge Edi Pasquale said the apparatus was not shielded from the wind and would be asking the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to ratify the record.

Records only count when the following wind is under two metres per second. The wind reached twice that level in gusts during much of the meeting but the reading for Pedroso's record jump was 1.2 mps.

Italian officials were involved in a controversy at the 1987 World Championships in Rome when it emerged that Giovanni Evangelisti's bronze medal-winning long jump of 8.38m was about 50cm further than he actually jumped.

The IAAF eventually withdrew his medal and placed him fourth.

However, Pedroso was in no doubt about an achievement that won a \$125,000 Ferrari.

"The jump was good," he

said. "With a bit of sun I would have jumped even further. But it probably won't be sunny at Gothenburg either and that's why I approached this competition as if it was the World Championships as you have to adapt to all types of conditions."

"He said he had jumped against his two idols — Carl Lewis and Mike Powell."

"And I have now written their names off the record book," he added.

Both men will probably relish the challenge in Gothenburg. Powell, beaten every one out this year, says he needs the motivation from jumping against Lewis to reach his best.

Now he has Pedroso. As for Lewis, he can never accept anyone is superior.

But it is the Cuban who is now the favourite for the World Championships gold medal, and the keys to a winner's Mercedes.

Pedroso's jump in Havana means he will probably leave his luxury cars at Larios in Spain where he is based with the other top Cuban athletes.

Bubka was jolted into action by South Africa's Okkert Brits, 22 next Wednesday, who became only the third man to vault six metres.

Bubka, jumped 6m for the 39th time and the two men then attacked the bar at 6.15m, one centimetre higher than the record Bubka set here last year to claim a 1994 Ferrari.

Brits never got near and withdrew after only one attempt while Bubka missed with all three attempts.

Radiation Gataullin of Russia, who vaulted 6.02m indoors in 1989, is the only other man to have cleared six metres.

Edwards, who has broken the 18m barrier four times this season only to be denied by an illegal following wind each time, jumped a wind-aided 17.58m.

He added a centimetre to



Cuba's Ivan Pedroso sets the new world long jump record of 8.96 metres at an athletics meeting in the Italian high-altitude ski resort of Sestriere (Reuters photo)

Willie Banks' 1985 record of 17.97m when he jumped 17.98m at Salamanca in Spain on July 18.

He twice beat the 60ft barrier at Lille in June with a

best of 18.43m.

The 22-year-old Pedroso, unbeaten this season, had reached a personal best of 8.80m at Lisbon in June.

Beamon's jump, also helped by the effects of altitude, went almost unnoticed and was almost the same as a mist reduced visibility to the length of the long jump runway.

Hill holds pole position against Schumacher in German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AFP) — Britain's Damon Hill in a Williams Renault on Saturday confirmed his pole position for Sunday's German Grand Prix against German rival Michael Schumacher, in what Hill described as "a very thrilling session."

Scott David Coulthard in the other Williams Renault was third fastest, one second ahead of last year's winner, Austrian Gerhard Berger in a Ferrari.

Hill predicted "a very close race again, (because) there is not a big difference between the three of us."

"It will be a thrilling battle for the spectators, hopefully to the finish" of the 45 lap race," Hill said.

Hill's pole lap of 1 min. 44.385 secs., at an average speed of 235.309 kph, was nearly half a second better than his Friday pole time, but just 0.08 second ahead of Schumacher.

Despite support from the huge cheering, flag waving, and fireworks firing crowds in the Hockenheim stadium, Schumacher was unable to match Hill's pace when the Englishman confirmed the pole.

Hill said ironically that "the crowd were delighted with my pole position and I got a good reception" from

the fans, who in fact whistled and jeered him.

Schumacher, who has never won his home race, said he had been too concentrated to get an impression from the crowds during his qualifying laps.

But when his car fell silent, running out of fuel in the pit entry road, Schumacher said he realised the "unbelievable support from fans. It gave me goosebumps. It fantastic."

Hill's car has been faster through the twisting circuit inside the stadium than Schumacher's Benetton, which has an identical Renault engine.

"It's very difficult to make time up on the rest of the circuit," consisting of long straights and tight chicanes, because of the engines, said Hill.

"It's down to braking (in the stadium). The car handles beautifully there and I was able to take advantage," he said.

On his final run, with Schumacher still challenging, Hill admitted "overdoing it" entering the stadium and ran off the track. The German, however, finished his last lap slower than his previous best time.

Williams has found a better aerodynamic compromise for speed on the straights and grip in the stadium than Be-

netton, Schumacher admitted.

He said he "didn't expect to be so close after yesterday and this morning" when he was well off the leading pace. He noted good improvements to his car Saturday, but conceded "Damon did too good a job for me today."

"We have the night to improve the car, and we usually pick up performance in the race," Schumacher said.

Coulthard, who has raced at Hockenheim so frequently in other series that "it's almost like a home track," said: "I feel I'll be strong in the race. It's not too bad to be on the second row as it's easier to overtake than on some other tracks."

"It's shaping up to be a very interesting race," said Coulthard.

Brazilian Rubens Barrichello and Irishman Eddie Irvine put their Jordan Peugeot into the fifth and sixth places, ahead of the McLaren Mercedes of Finn Mika Hakkinen and Briton Mark Blundell.

Johnny Herbert, who won his first Grand Prix at his home race at Silverstone two weeks ago, could only qualify ninth. "The car lacked grip and changes did not help to move me forward substantially," he said.

McRae heads for New Zealand Rally hat-trick

ROTORUA, New Zealand (R) — Colin McRae was heading for a hat-trick of New Zealand Rally victories on Saturday as he led by over a minute with one day remaining.

The British driver moved clear on the long, twisty Motu stage — pushing his Subaru Impreza through it 35 seconds faster than French world champion Didier Auriol in second place.

McRae continued to set fastest times and stretched his lead to a minute and three seconds over Auriol at the end of the third day.

Even the usually optimistic French driver admitted that he had little prospect of overhauling McRae's lead on the relatively short and easy final day.

"I'll keep going, but you can't put McRae under pressure when the gap is a minute and 25 seconds, yes, but a minute is too much," said the Toyota driver.

If McRae clinches his expected victory, it will be his fourth world championship win — three of them in New Zealand.

"We always knew the third day would be our strongest, but we never expected to

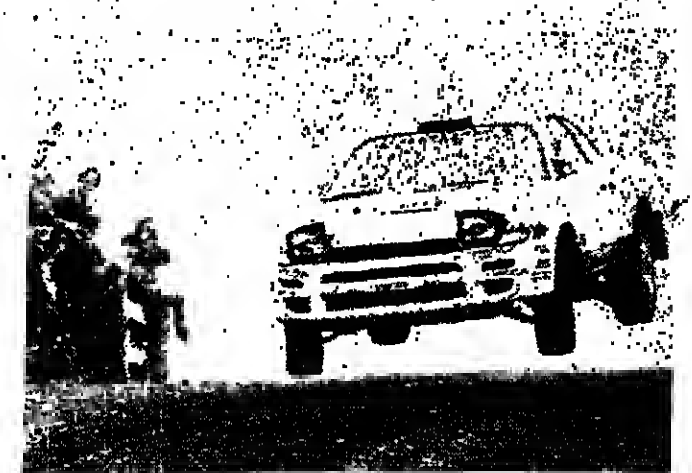
finish it with such a big lead," he said.

If Auriol and his Toyota teammate Juha Kankkunen of Finland maintain their overnight positions of second and third respectively, the top of the world championship points table will be very close.

With three rounds remain-

ing, Auriol would have 51 points, with Kankkunen and Carlos Sainz one point behind. Sainz is not competing in New Zealand because of a shoulder injury suffered in a mountain-bike accident.

Kankkunen is 31 seconds behind Auriol and a safe 36 seconds ahead of German Armin Schwarz in another Toyota.



World champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland trailing McRae in second place

Johnson, Morceli are likely to dominate World Championships

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP) — One is a powerful sprinter from the United States, the other a slightly built distance runner from Algeria. Together, they have dominated men's athletics like few ever have.

Michael Johnson, aiming for an unprecedented sprint double, and Noureddine Morceli, perhaps the greatest middle-distance runner of all-time, will be the stars to watch at the World Championships starting Aug. 4.

About 1,900 athletes from 193 countries will be competing at the Fifth World Championships, including most of the big names. Some, including Johnson and Morceli, already have a bunch of titles.

Carl Lewis, who has three world 100-metre titles, failed to qualify for the sprint this year but will compete in the long jump against two-time defending champion Mike Powell. Lewis, succeeded as sprint champion by Britain's Linford Christie, also has two long jump titles.

Sergei Bubka goes for his fifth straight pole vault title and Dan O'Brien for his third consecutive decathlon championship. Jackie Joyner-Kersey aims to add to her two titles in the long jump and two titles in the heptathlon.

But Johnson and Morceli look capable of something even greater than simply defending their titles.

While the American seeks to become the first man ever to sweep the 200 and 400 metres, Morceli is in shape to break his own world record in the 1,500 (he also holds world records for the mile, 2,000 and 3,000).

Although Johnson doesn't hold an outdoor world record yet, he is getting closer to



Michael Johnson

Pietro Mennea's 19.72 seconds for the 200, set back in 1979 at altitude, and Butch Reynolds' 400 time of 43.28, clocked seven years ago.

Johnson has won 200-metre races all over Europe in the run-up to Göteborg, including a wind-aided 19.96 in Lausanne on July 5 against a field that included some of his world championship rivals: Christie and defending champion Frankie Fredericks of Namibia.

He is unbeaten in 45 races at 400 metres and left world record-holder Reynolds well back at the Bislett Games at Oslo on July 21 in a time of 43.86 seconds.

"There are a lot of people who want to see me trying to do something no one has ever done," Johnson said. "I'm in very good form. I'm sharp right now."

Said Aouita, from the record books. "But the 1,500 is very special."

The only man in Morceli's class this year has been Burundian sensation Venuste Niyongabo.

Niyongabo has entered both the 1,500 and 5,000 events for the worlds. With Morceli expected to run the 1,500, they may not face each other.

Johnson is not the only athlete attempting a double.

Marie-Jose Percec of France, champion over 400 metres in 1991, hopes to capitalise on the absence of injured hurdler Sally Gunnell to win both the 400 and 400 hurdles.

Russian sprinter Irina Privalova is going for 200, 100 and 200 double. At one stage, she said she was keen to add the 400 as well but has only entered the shorter races.

But Gail Devers, who won both the 100 and 100-metre hurdles at the last worlds in Stuttgart two years ago, is defending only her hurdles title.

That means the women's 100 will have a new champion with the battle featuring three of the greats, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey, Gwen Torrence of the United States and Privalova.

Christie's main rival in the men's 100 appears to be a Canadian, rather than an American.

Donovan Bailey has the best time of the year, 9.91, set in the Canadian national trials two weeks ago, when countryman Bruny Surin ran 9.97 in the same race.

Mike Marsh, the Olympic 200-metre finalist, was the surprise 100 winner at the U.S. trials, with Lewis and world record-holder Leroy Burrell failing to qualify.

Grobelaar receives cash bonus to boost moral

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar, charged with match-fixing in Britain, has received a \$1,500 bonus from the Zimbabwe government.

The Southampton and Zimbabwe goalie was among 19 national players awarded individual bonuses of 12,000 Zimbabwe dollars as a morale booster ahead of a crucial Africa Cup of Nations qualifier on Sunday.

Sports Minister Witness Mangwende said the bonus was not conditional on the squad winning the match against Cameroon in Yaounde. He said it was a token of appreciation from meager government resources for the players' training efforts.

"This is not enough but we will make do with what we have," Mangwende said at a cocktail party for the team Thursday.

Zimbabwe must win Sunday's match to secure a place in the Africa Cup finals in South Africa in January.

On Monday, British police charged Grobelaar with four counts of corruption relating to alleged match-fixing of English premier league games.

He was jointly charged with four others, including English league players Hans Segers and John Fashanu, with conspiracy to throw matches.

Zimbabwe finds itself needing to win Sunday due in part to an informal boycott of a previous qualifying match against Zaire by Grobelaar and several other European-based Zimbabwean teammates.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH MURCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AK762 ♠ AK106 ♣ 73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Partner's spade rebid is not particularly encouraging, but you have a better-than-minimum hand rich in quick tricks. Since partner's auction promises a six-card suit, your doubleton jack is adequate support, so we suggest a raise to three spades.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 7642 ♣ 7 ♠ AK1063 ♠ AJ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—This depends on your method. If you play negative doubles, then you have to reopen with a double. If not, there's no reason why you should take any action. You have a minimum opening bid and the opponents own the master suit.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K ♠ 82 ♠ KQJ53 ♠ KQ74
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A.—Where you belong depends entirely on how many ace partner holds. If he has four, we would try seven no trump; if only three, six no trump; there's no way partner can have two fast losers in hearts. The way to ask is via the Gerber convention: jump to four clubs.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ78 ♠ AK103 ♠ KQ82
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—West's jump to game is pre-emptive and partner must have a very good hand to act at such a high level. Since partner is almost certainly void in diamonds, we think slam should, at worst, be on a finesse. In which suit? Cue-bid six diamonds and let partner choose.

so any action by you will give the opponents two bites at the cherry.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J8 ♠ J95 ♠ AK106 ♠ AJ1076
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Stay away from three no trump. Partner is showing a minimum hand with six spades and four hearts, so the only question is whether you should bid three spades or four. With two aces and a filler for each of partner's suits, we would opt for four spades.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ73 ♠ J10825 ♠ 954 ♠ A
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl

What action do you take?
A.—West's jump to game is pre-emptive and partner must have a very good hand to act at such a high level. Since partner is almost certainly void in diamonds, we think slam should, at worst, be on a finesse. In which suit? Cue-bid six diamonds and let partner choose.

Q.7—West's jump to game is pre-emptive and partner must have a very good hand to act at such a high level. Since partner is almost certainly void in diamonds, we think slam should, at worst, be on a finesse. In which suit? Cue-bid six diamonds and let partner choose.

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ73 ♠ J10825 ♠ 954 ♠ A
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl

What action do you take?
A.—West's jump to game is pre-emptive and partner must have a very good hand to act at such a high level. Since partner is almost certainly void in diamonds, we think slam should, at worst, be on a finesse. In which suit? Cue-bid six diamonds and let partner choose.

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ73 ♠ J10825 ♠ 954 ♠ A
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl

What action do you take?
A.—West's jump to game is pre-emptive and partner must have a very good hand to act at such a high level. Since partner is almost certainly void in diamonds, we think slam should, at worst, be on a finesse. In which suit? Cue-bid six diamonds and let partner choose.

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ73 ♠ J10825 ♠ 954 ♠ A
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Dbl

What action do you take?
A.—West's jump to game is pre-emptive and partner must have a very good hand to act at such a high level. Since partner is almost certainly void in diamonds, we think slam should, at worst, be on a finesse. In which suit? Cue-bid six diamonds and let partner choose.

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Agassi, Sampras, Wilander move into the Montreal Open semifinals

MONTREAL (R) — Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, the top two seeds, won their quarterfinal matches at the \$1.795 million Canadian Open Friday but it was seeded Mats Wilander who stole the show.

The 102nd-ranked Wilander, who was the world's number one player in 1988, upset fourth-seeded and seventh-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 7-5, 7-6, (7-4).

The top-seeded and top-ranked Agassi survived a tough first-set fight from Malivai Washington before posting a 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 win.

Second-seeded Pete Sampras had an even tougher first-set battle, coming back from 0-4 to capture a 7-6 (7-3) 6-2 win over seventh-seeded Michael Stich of Germany.

Twelfth seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden scored a 6-3, 6-4 win over third seed Michael Chang to earn a semifinal berth against Sampras.

der had beaten two top 10 players in a row since the 1988 Australian Open when, as the second-ranked player in the world, he defeated Stefan Edberg in the semifinals and pat cash in the final.

"I'm thrilled as hell to be in the semifinals," Wilander said. Now my confidence is growing that I can beat top 10 players and I'm not going to be happy losing in the first or second rounds anymore."

Kafelnikov took a 4-1 lead with a service break in the second game. But Wilander earned the service break back when, at 30-40 in the ninth game, Kafelnikov double-faulted, and the Swede won the next seven games.

Wilander served for the match at 5-4 in the second set but was forced into a tiebreaker, where he won the final three points.

The ninth-ranked Stich opened playing flawless tennis to take his 4-0 lead over the second-ranked Sampras.

"I don't remember a set where I came back from two breaks," the American said. "I had no business winning that set, but strange things happen."



Pete Sampras

serve. Using another service break in the 10th game, Sampras was able to push the set into a tiebreaker where he won the final four points.

Stich said, "I gave it to him and gave him the match."

Stich flung his racket to his court-side chair after losing

his serve in the first game of the second set and fell behind 0-5 before breaking Sampras in the sixth game, but couldn't match his opponent's first-set comeback.

Jordan triumphs in last match in Asian women's basketball tournament

By Aileen Bannayan from Shizuoka

JORDAN earned a hard-fought victory over Indonesia Saturday, turning their 28-20 first half loss to a 58-55 victory to finish fifth in Level B at the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for Women which concludes Sunday in Shizuoka, Japan.

Ending their first Asian participation with a win in the final match boosted the team's morale as they were cheered and congratulated by fans, officials and other delegations.

Team captain Rana Hussein capped a perfect match with 12 points as she secured rebounding together with top scorer Jumana Sali and Andeira Qasesieh.

Scoring remained close at first, but Indonesia relied on 3-point shooting to lead 19-15 and 28-17 before Jordan's Qasesieh scored a fascinating 3-pointer at the buzzer from mid-court ending the first half 28-20 for Indonesia.

Playmaker Hala Muheisen led the team with her well-known fighting spirit and together with Sali and Hussein narrowed the gap to 45-42 for Indonesia in the 15th minute. Jordan then took the lead with 11 consecutive points by Muheisen, Sali and Jehane Abdalnour to lead 53-47.

The final two minutes were nerve-wrecking as Jordan kept the lead 54-51 while Indonesia tried to catch up with 3-pointers. But Hussein and Qasesieh secured all rebounding to give their teammates and coach some peace of mind by also scoring 4 points to lead 58-51 before a three-pointer by Indonesia. However, Jordan held on

China, South Korea qualify to Olympics

SHIZUOKA, Japan (AFP) — Three-time defending champions China breezed past Taiwan 99-72 on Saturday to set up a final encounter against South Korea at the Asian women's basketball championships. They both qualify automatically for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

The Koreans, who defeated China and Japan to win the gold medal at the Hiroshima Asian Games last year, overwhelmed Kazakhstan 129-56, while Japan trounced Kirghistan 117-41.

China, South Korea and Japan finished the six-nation round robin tournament with 4-1 win-loss records with China taking top spot thanks to a better point average among the three teams, South Korea second and Japan third.

China and South Korea clinched the places for the Atlanta Olympic Games next year, while Japan will take on Taiwan in a third-place playoff, vying for the last ticket to the United States.

☆ Snippets from Shizuoka

★ Rana Hussein scored the first and last point for Jordan in the championship.

★ Thailand won the Level B title.

★ Jordan's referee Atiyeh Wuheidi umpired the Korea-Kazakhstan match.

★ The Kingdom's delegation will leave Shizuoka at 5 a.m. Monday morning and arrive in Amman via Kuala Lumpur at 5

a.m. Tuesday. Jordan's players dedicated their win to all those who made their trip possible and especially their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, who contributed JD 5,000 to cover the group's travel expenses after their fundraising campaign fell short of its target.

Level B Final Standings

	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Thailand	5	—	356	215	10
Malaysia	3	2	293	289	8
Philippines	3	2	346	308	8
Hong Kong	3	2	296	296	8
Jordan	1	4	224	352	6
Indonesia	—	5	244	299	5

to win 58-55.

Scoring came as follows: Jumana Sali 18, Hala Muheisen, 13, Rana

Hussein 12, Andeira Qasesieh 7, Jehane Abdalnour 6, Rana Dajani 2.

★ RESULTS: Level A: Korea-Kazakhstan 129-56 China-Taipei 99-72 Japan-Kyrgyzstan 117-41 In other level B matches: Malaysia beat Philippines 74-72 and Thailand defeated Hong Kong 84-45.

War in Bosnia spills over into Italian soccer

ROME (R) — The emotions of the Bosnian war are spilling over into Italy's Serie A soccer league, with Serbian and Croatian stars locked in a bitter verbal exchange over who is to blame for the killings.

The league counts nine players from former Yugoslavia, some of them top stars like AC Milan's Montenegro playmaker Dejan Savicevic, but most had remained silent about the conflict until recently.

The row, which has pit Savicevic against Croatian teammate Zvonimir Boban, started two weeks ago after Serbian Sinisa Mihajlovic accused the Italian press of putting the sole blame for the war on his countrymen.

"I've been in Italy for three years and I've never heard a good word said about the Serbs. It seems as if we were the only ones responsible for this war, as if only we were to blame," Mihajlovic told reporters in Rome.

"But the fact is everybody is against everybody in this conflict, atrocities are being committed by each side. It's horrible," added Mihajlovic, 26.

The comments by the Sampdoria midfielder polarized Balkan players into two camps — those who condemned the Serbs, and those who condemned all the fighting factions.

Savicevic, while taking a more neutral line, appeared to side with Mihajlovic when he was widely quoted as saying the Serbs "had lost the image battle" in the international press, and that "everybody was to blame."

But the league's top Croatians — including midfielder Boban and strikers Alen Boksic of Lazio and Goran Vlaovic of Padova — fired back that the Serbs clearly bore the brunt of the blame.

Asked what he thought about Savicevic's remarks, Boban told reporters last Thursday: "The world has already understood who the real guilty ones are. In fact, within Serbia itself not one bullet has ever been shot."

Boksic, who slammed the U.N. for what he called impotence in Bosnia, was quoted last week as saying: "Everybody can see the atrocities the Serbs are committing, but now I think they have really begun to exaggerate."

Vlaovic, a talented young Croatian forward whose idol is Boksic, said his country's entry into the conflict was the only hope to save Bosnia.

"Everybody thinks we soccer players are beyond the conflict because we are away from home and make a lot of money," Vlaovic was quoted on Saturday as saying in Corriere dello Sport daily. "But it is impossible to forget the war."

Graf ready to quit tennis

BONN (AFP) — Steffi Graf, women's world number one, is ready to give up tennis because of the current investigation into her financial affairs, according to Monday's edition of Der Spiegel.

"She is genuinely thinking of retiring," declared a friend. "She has never been as close."

Graf, who recently won Wimbledon for a sixth time, will either take the decision in the next few weeks or after the United States Open in September.

Several of Graf and her father Peter's homes were raided on May 23 by the Mannheim justice department investigating tax evasion.

Der Spiegel says her father had hidden several million marks in revenue derived from advertising in front companies and under assumed names.

Graf, who unlike other German sports stars Boris Becker and Michael Schumacher has remained in Germany, refuted the accusations.

"I am preoccupied with my tennis career and I left all the financial matters in the hands of my father and other financial experts," she said.

She also repudiated the idea that her advisors had made any mistakes and felt she too would have to leave Germany.

In Der Spiegel her anonymous friend says: "Steffi no longer takes pleasure in anything."

According to the magazine the "Graf Enterprise" paid the taxman only 7 million marks (\$5 million from revenue of 35 million marks (\$25 million) in the last four years.

Graf's personal fortune is estimated at more than 100 million marks (\$72 million).



Steffi Graf screams in joy after winning her last Grand Slam title in Wimbledon July 8

America's soccer run is more special considering its history

NEW YORK (AP) — They all remember the bad times. There have been so many. Those old enough to have memories of the American national team can close their eyes and see empty stadiums, or worse, home stadium filled with the other team's fans.

There were the struggles against the Guatemalas: the blowouts by the Englishs. Eric Wynalda can remember Czechoslovakia at the 1990 World Cup. Tab Ramos and John Harkes can remember El Salvador in 1989. And Paul Caligiuri and John Kerr Jr. can see all the way back to 1985, and elimination at home from World Cup qualifying by Costa Rica.

All of those trials has made the past seven weeks even more remarkable for the Americans. Thinking back just 10 years, never mind the 65 or more before that, has made winning of the U.S. Cup over Nigeria, Mexico and Colombia, and the ride to the semifinals of the Copa America over Chile and Argentina a super summer.

"It's awesome," was the reaction of captain and defender Marcelo Balboa, the American all-time leader with 105 caps. "When I started in '88, we would go on the field saying 'how bad our we gonna get beat today.'"

"Now we walk out on the field, and teams are being intimidated by us."

"You've got (opponents) calling you by your first name," says Caligiuri, right behind Balboa with 103 caps. "Before, you didn't even know if they knew your name."

Save for a few notable upsets, America's international record until the last 3-4 years has been notorious. After getting to the semifinals of the first World Cup in 1930 and the 1-0 upset over England, America's national team had been a laughing-stock.

Losses of 10-2 to Chile in 1963, 10-0 to Brazil in 1963, England in '64 and Italy in 1975.

More recently, there was the 5-1 bombing by Czechoslovakia, the United States' first appearance in the World Cup in 40 years. But there also were games against the tiny Concaaf Laon nations that make the routs seem even worse.

In 1985, needing only a draw against Costa Rica in the Los Angeles suburb of Torrance, California, to get to the second round of World Cup qualifying, the United States lost 1-0 before a crowd of 10,000 — about 99 per cent

of it Costa Rican.

In 1989, it had a chance to clinch a World Cup berth with a victory over already eliminated El Salvador. Playing at home outside St. Louis, it played to a miserable 0-0 draw before a crowd of less than 10,000.

Despite reaching the second round at the World Cup last summer, America's reputation had gained little.

This summer has done a lot to make the Americans take a respected place in soccer. The 3-2 victory over Nigeria; the 4-0 thrashing of Mexico followed by a penalty-kick victory nearly a month later; the 2-1 win over Chile; and the caper — a 3-0 demolition of Argentina is a string of results unmatched in U.S. history.

"Not a stretch (of match-ups)," said Roger Allaway, president of the Society for American Soccer History, trying to recall something that came close to the summer of 1995. "There have been games here and there, but the combination of the U.S. Cup and Cnpa America, this nine-game streak is unprecedented."

The five victories and one draw are not going unnoticed.

Indy Car driver crashes

BROOKLYN, Michigan (AP) — Robby Gordon was knocked unconscious Friday in a high-speed crash during practice for Sunday's Marlboro 500 Indy-Car race. The 26-year-old Gordon, one of the budding stars of the PPG Cup series, had to be cut out of his car after the hard crash. Dr. Cup series, Gordon, one of the budding stars of the PPG Cup series, had to be cut out of his car after the hard crash. Dr. Cup series, Gordon, one of the budding stars of the PPG Cup series, had to be cut out of his car after the hard crash.

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Abu Shaqra introduces a new scent: Faconnable

Rami Abu Shaqra the Director General of the Abu Shaqra Trading Agency, held a press conference during which he announced the introduction of the new scent Faconnable explaining that it has been named after the Faconnable fashion firm because it is the first perfume it has produced and it reflects the great quality of the firm's products. According to Mr Abu Shaqra, the idea behind Faconnable is based on an inspiration from the past but at the same time it is a reflection of the concept of modernisation. He said that Faconnable is a scent that conforms to the original idea saying that the essence of the old emerges through the right blending of elements available in the modern age. He noted that the new scent came to emphasise this philosophy.

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

Farewell party at Forte Grand
FORTE GRAND Amman's Andalusia restaurant was the venue for a farewell party to five Military attaches organised by the British Embassy. The five attaches, from Britain, Pakistan, Russia, Oman and Turkey were presented with commemorative gifts to remind them of their stay in Jordan. The Hotel presented them with a special cake, to mark their departure, that was decorated with the flags of each nation and Good-bye in each language.

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Hamas sends Clinton letter demanding freedom for detainee

AMMAN (Agencies) — Palestinian group Hamas said Saturday it wrote U.S. President Bill Clinton demanding the release of one of its leaders being held by U.S. immigration authorities.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordan-based spokesman for the Islamist party, said a letter sent to Mr. Clinton on Saturday called for Mousa Abu Marzuk to be "immediately and unconditionally" let go.

The FLO also asked the United States on Saturday not to extradite to Israel Mr. Abu Marzuk.

Palestinian Self-rule Authority member Samir Ghosheh told reporters in Gaza: "We are against any decision to hand over Mousa Marzuk to the Israeli authorities."

Palestinian Authority member Nabil Shaath said "there is no legal reason to justify handing over Abu Marzuk, an American citizen, to Israel. If he is charged with specific legal issues, we prefer to have him tried in Palestinian courts."

Mr. Abu Marzuk, a native of New York by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) was returning from a two-month trip abroad.

The U.S. government

wants to deport Mr. Abu Marzuk, 45, a 14-year registered resident of Falls Church, Virginia, because of his association with Hamas.

Washington regards Hamas as a terrorist organisation which seeks the destruction of Israel and wreckage of the Mideast peace process. The militant group has been blamed for a series of deadly attacks against Israelis.

Mr. Ghosheh said the letter "explained that Hamas is a movement resisting Israeli occupation, a right guaranteed to us under civil laws and it is similar to American resistance of (British) colonisation 200 years ago."

He told the Associated Press that the letter "focused on the clean and legal record of Mousa Abu Marzuk in the United States during the past 14 years."

He said it also "urged the Clinton administration to reassess its policy regarding Islam in the Middle East and towards Islamic forces operating there."

U.S. embassy officials here were not immediately available for comment.

Hamas officials say Mr. Abu Marzuk is the head of the group's political bureau. They say he moved to Lebanon late last year after representing Hamas in Syria for three years.

Jordan expelled Mr. Abu Marzuk on June 1 along with a deputy.

In Damascus, radical Palestinian factions told the United States to free Mr. Abu Marzuk.

An alliance of 10 radical groups, issuing an identical statement to one issued earlier by Hamas, warned the United States of the consequences of handing Mr. Abu Marzuk to Israel.

"While demanding the immediate release of Abu Marzuk, the Palestinian alliance warns the U.S. authorities against contemplating to meet any possible demand of Zionist occupation authorities," the group's statement said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday Israel wants the United States to deliver Mr. Abu Marzuk, who has the right of residence in America, to Israel.

The Palestinian self-rule authority has offered him a home.

"The U.S. administration is hereby held fully responsible for whatever harm happens to a member of the alliance as Abu Marzuk," the group's statement added.

Mr. Abu Marzuk said he has received death and bomb threats since taking the case.

The lawyer, Stanley Cohen, said one message left on his answering machine

Friday accused him of being a "self-hating Jew." Others have left messages in which they scream or make threats, he said.

Mr. Rabin said his government was checking whether Israel's extradition agreement with the United States covers the crimes Mr. Abu Marzuk is alleged to have committed.

Government spokesman Uri Dromi said Israel had not asked the United States to arrest Mr. Abu Marzuk.

Russ Bergeron, an INS spokesman in Washington, said the government has begun exclusion proceedings to bar Mr. Abu Marzuk from coming back into the country. The first is scheduled for Monday morning.

Exclusion hearings, unlike deportation hearings, are not open to the public, Ms. Bergeron said.

Abu Marzuk had lived in the United States at least 14 years and had permanent resident status.

Mr. Cohen said detaining his client, who had left and reentered the country many times before with no trouble, was absurd.

"This man is not personally involved in nor is he planning to be involved in an armed struggle. He is a political leader of Hamas. Political, that's it," the lawyer said.

Abu Marzuk: Influential yet paradoxical Hamas leader

Jon Immanuel
The Jerusalem Post

MUSA MOHAMMED Abu Marzuk, who was arrested in New York Thursday, is a paradox, considered by some observers of Hamas to be both its leading advocate of peace with Israel and its leading terrorist.

Others say that however much he tries to force Israel and Hamas closer to each other, the real decisions are taken by an unidentified group of elders who give orders to more public figures, like Mr. Abu Marzuk.

He heads Hamas' political department, a role which means he at least has some connection with the real leaders. But how influential he is, is not clear.

Israeli intelligence assumes he is a leading decision-maker, more influential than anyone

in Gaza, a view shared by some Palestinian analysts, including some who have met him abroad.

One observer who has followed his career for years said: "He is totally cold-blooded and pragmatic. He is both capable of ordering suicide attacks and making a better deal with Israel than other Hamas leaders would offer."

Mr. Abu Marzuk came to public attention when he called the Reuters office in Amman with a statement pointing out an article he wrote in a Jordanian Islamic periodical, "Sabil" ("Path"). In the

article, he promised Israel a hudna, a truce, but he told Palestinian interlocutors later that he meant peace and the message was meant as a diplomatic nod to Israel.

U.S. State Department officials reportedly

invited him for discussions in Washington about Hamas' position.

At Israel's insistence, the U.S. declared Hamas a terrorist organisation and foreclosed its accounts in the U.S. after the October suicide bus bombing in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Abu Marzuk, in his forties, was born in Gaza. He lived for some years in the U.S., where several of his children were born.

This week Mr. Abu Marzuk returned to the U.S. apparently for the first time since he was expelled from Jordan in May.

It isn't clear why he returned to the U.S. after Hamas was outlawed there. Some observers think he did so believing Israel will not be able to prove his involvement in terrorism enough to satisfy U.S. extradition requirements.

Iraq hits out at U.S. for mediating between Kurds

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Saturday dismissed attempts by the United States to mediate between warring Kurdish factions in northern Iraq as flagrant interference in its domestic affairs.

Culture and Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi said Washington was trying to sabotage Iraq's peaceful overtures to Kurdish rebel leaders in a bid to use Iraqi Kurds "as a cheap card ... to conspire against Iraq and prolong the (U.N. Gulf war) sanctions."

"This attitude exposes on the widest scale the American policy which has been the main reason for the destruction and misery our Kurdish people undergo in areas where America has spread its despotic control," Mr. Hummadi told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) in a statement.

The U.S. State Department said on Thursday the two main Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), had agreed to its mediation to halt fighting between their militias.

Since then U.N. officials in Baghdad have said both the KDP and PUK, which have divided northern Iraq into two separate spheres of influence, have halted fighting.

But they said the situation was still very tense. Fighting between the Kurdish factions has led to the collapse of local administration in the region and paralysed a power-sharing agreement that followed regional elections in 1992.

Turkey, uneasy about the situation, says the power vacuum in the area helps Turkish Kurdish guerrillas based there to launch cross-border attacks, prompting military incursions by Ankara.

An Iraqi Kurdish official in Ankara said on Tuesday that the PUK and KDP leaders had held talks with an envoy from Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, believed to be the highest level of contact with Baghdad in several

years. "American officials have called the warring factions... to a meeting in which they informed them that it will be impossible for talks with Baghdad to result in a positive outcome," Mr. Hummadi said.

Iraqi leaders issued several calls to rebel Kurds this year urging them to talk peace with Baghdad. The overtures have so far fallen on deaf ears.

Mr. Hummadi also called on the Kurds to "respond to the sincere call by the leadership for the enhancement of national unity and return to normalcy in northern Iraq."

Iraqi Kurds are under the protection of a Turkish-based Western air force to prevent possible attacks by the Iraqi army.

Iraq vows to cooperate fully with Ekeus

Iraq will cooperate "to the maximum" with the U.N. Special Commission on disarmament (UNSCOM) when its chief investigator Rolf Ekeus visits Baghdad next week, a newspaper here pledged Saturday.

The daily Babel, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said: "Iraq is anxious to cooperate to the maximum with UNSCOM so it can tie up the biological weapons file."

Iraq wants to convince the United Nations that it has complied with all U.N. resolutions on abandoning weapons of mass destruction to enable a lifting of economic sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Last week, however, it warned it would stop cooperating with UNSCOM if the commission did not finish its work by the end of August and give Baghdad the all-clear.

Babel urged UNSCOM to distance itself from disinformation spread by the CIA intelligence service in the United States in an attempt to prolong sanctions.

Mubarak rules out war against Sudan

CAIRO (AFP) — President Hosni Mubarak has said Egypt would not go to war against Sudan although he was certain it was at the root of an attempt on his life.

"I will not start a war against Sudan," he said in a newspaper interview published on Saturday. "Whom would I go to fight against in Sudan? The Sudanese people are our relatives."

But Mr. Mubarak was "100 per cent" sure that Sudan was behind the abortive bid on his life in Addis Ababa, a charge denied by Khartoum.

"Sudan harbours terrorism, and terrorism comes from Sudan," the president charged, ruling out any Ethiopian involvement in the assassination bid on June 26.

Mr. Mubarak warned Sudanese leaders that "if they persist with their misguided ways," he would "resort to other means."

2 Palestinians facing explosives charges freed

LONDON (R) — A Palestinian couple arrested in a case related to last summer's bombing of the Israeli embassy were released Friday after a court found insufficient evidence to press army charges.

Reem Ibrahim Abdul Hadi, 34, and Mohammad Derbas, 31, had been charged with possessing explosives and weapons with intent to endanger life.

Three other people involved in the same case — Nadia Zekra, Jawed Mahmoud Botmeh, and Miss Samar Alami — remain in custody on explosive charges in connection with bombings of a Jewish centre and the Israeli embassy in London last July.

A 14-kg bomb exploded outside the Israeli embassy in west London last July, injuring 14 people. A further six people were injured when a second bomb went off later outside the offices of a Jewish charity in north London.

Prosecutor Andrew Harman said Britain's prosecution service, the CPs, was still satisfied that the decision to charge Ms. Abdul Hadi and Mr. Derbas was "entirely justified."

But he added: "The CPs has concluded there is insufficient evidence to afford a realistic prospect of conviction."

Malaysia to meet OIC to discuss Bosnia weapon sale

ASEAN ministers urge end of ban

KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies) — Malaysia, speeding up its plan to sell arms to Bosnia, will meet with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) soon to decide how to sell and dispatch weapons, the state news agency Bernama said on Saturday.

"We will arrange the meeting with OIC as soon as possible to get the final decision and their reaction on the choice made by the committee," Malaysian Deputy Minister of Defence Abdullah Fadil Che Wan Abdullah told reporters after an athletic meeting in the capital.

The joint committee from Malaysia's foreign and defence ministry was set up on Wednesday by the cabinet after the OIC, which met in Geneva last week, declared the United Nations arms embargo against the former Yugoslav republic invalid.

Last Saturday Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Malaysia was willing to sell weapons to Bosnia after the OIC declaration.

The powerful youth wing of Malaysia's ruling party, the United Malays National Organisation, announced on Thursday it had begun collecting public donations to buy arms for Bosnian government forces.

In Brunei, foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) called Saturday for an end to what one described as the "unjustified and illegal" arms embargo

against Bosnia.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in a speech at the opening of a two-day meeting, said ASEAN should press the United Nations to take effective measures to prevent the "obliteration" of Bosnia.

Mr. Badawi spoke after the release of a joint statement in which the foreign ministers of the seven ASEAN countries called for lifting the arms embargo and the immediate withdrawal of Bosnian Serb forces from the two U.N.-designated Muslim "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa.

"The unjustified and illegal arms embargo imposed against Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be supported because, the international community has a moral and legal responsibility to allow Bosnia-Herzegovina to acquire the means to defend itself," Mr. Badawi said.

"ASEAN should also lend its weight to pressure the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to take effective measures to prevent the obliteration of one of its sovereign member states."

Mr. Badawi's Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas, said the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Bosnia (UNPROFOR) should be invested with more power.

"Indonesia endorses a more robust mandate for the UNPROFOR and calls upon the Security Council to stop the aggression and genocide

and to grant Bosnia-Herzegovina its inherent right of individual and collective self-defence by lifting the ill-conceived arms embargo," he said.

The ASEAN statement expressed "profound anguish at the failure and paralysis of the U.N. mission in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in responding and addressing the fast-deteriorating situation in that country."

"The foreign ministers accept the right of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to self-defence," the statement said. "They therefore support the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Three of ASEAN's seven members are predominantly Muslim including Malaysia, Brunei and the world's largest Islamic country — Indonesia. ASEAN's other members are the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

South African Muslims denounce U.S.

South Africa Muslims chanted "death to Bill Clinton, death to America" and burned U.S. flags Friday to protest world inaction in the Bosnian civil war.

Some 2,000 protesters brought traffic to a standstill in the centre of Cape Town, marching through the city

centre to present demands at the U.S. British, Russian and Israeli embassies.

In Pretoria, about 1,500 marchers set U.S., Russian and British flags afire, screaming "You are murderers. Stop the killings."

Police in Cape Town kept a restrained presence behind riot shields, a contrast to Thursday when 20 to 30 rubber bullets were fired at Muslim demonstrators and 16 were arrested.

The marchers called on the West to intervene more forcefully to protect Bosnian Muslims in the civil war against rebel Serbs.

"Innocent men, women and children are being massacred while the so-called civilised world stands by and watches," said marcher Ismail Collier in Cape Town.

A scuffle broke out when demonstrators threw stones at police at the Israeli embassy in Cape Town, but the police allowed crowd marshals to restore calm. No arrests and no injuries were reported.

The protesters carried banners reading "Boutros-Ghali, the butcher of Bosnia," referring to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, and sprayed a swastika near the Israeli embassy.

The Pretoria marchers presented demands at U.N. offices for the lifting of the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia to enable government forces to fight the better-armed Serbs.

commando leader Winnich Granitzka said.

Mr. Bor pumped three bullets into the 64-year-old woman, finishing her off with a point-blank shot to the head.

Then he took her picture. Moments later, commandos ostensibly moving up to hand Mr. Bor a mobile telephone stormed the coach, firing around 20 shots. One round hit Mr. Bor in the left temple, two more in the shoulder.

Mr. Bor turned what 25 tourists had planned as a pleasant sightseeing tour of Cologne into a murderous adventure.

New daily to appear in January

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new political daily is expected to go to print as of January next year, bringing the number of dailies in the Kingdom to four.

The newspaper to be published by the Arab Publishers Company, which produces the weekly tabloid Shihan, will have a capital of JD 3 million, according to Riad Hroub, Shihan's publisher.

Dr. Hroub said the daily will be a "serious political newspaper that is financially independent."

"It will be the forum for all points of views," Dr. Hroub told the Jordan Times. "The new daily will (present) a new experience to Jordanian readers."

Dr. Hroub said the new daily would be different in style and coverage from the three dailies in the market. Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Al Aswaq. Although Arab Publishers have not applied for licence yet, Dr. Hroub said, he is confident that all procedures will go smoothly and that the daily will be successful.

"We are not afraid of competition," he said. "We studied the market and we are sure we are going to succeed."

Egypt detains 200 Muslim Brotherhood activists

CAIRO (AP) — In its biggest crackdown, the government has arrested 200 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, many of them reportedly top leaders, the Interior Ministry announced Saturday.

The sweep, which occurred Friday, marks Egypt's most decisive attempt to break the influence of the Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic Organisation, which claims tens of thousands of members.

Although technically outlawed, the Brotherhood has been allowed to operate openly and to field candidates in parliamentary elections under the banner of other opposition parties. It

represents the most powerful opposition to Egypt's government.

The Interior Ministry said 180 activists, including 70 leaders, were arrested in Alexandria, Egypt's second-largest city. Another 20 members were arrested in Menoufia, northwest of Cairo.

The ministry said the activists were "preparing the organisation's cadres to carry out combat missions."

Seventeen computer discs and booklets were seized "that deal with preparing and organising Brotherhood camps, its aims and ways of teaching its extremist ideas," the ministry statement said.

A Brotherhood spokesman, Mamoun El Hodeibi, said the men were arrested at youth camps organised by the government.

"I don't understand how they violated the law in any way, so I don't know why they were arrested," he told the Associated Press.

The crackdown on the group began earlier this year when the government accused it of forging ties with Muslim militants, who have waged a three-year campaign to overthrow the government and install strict Islamic rule.

More than 700 people, most of them police and militants, have died in the fighting. The Brotherhood denies

the charges. It says it has renounced violence and will work peacefully to bring about an Islamic state. In recent years, Brotherhood members have taken control of the majority of Egypt's powerful professional unions.

Critics say the crackdown is aimed at discrediting the group in advance of parliamentary elections in the fall.

Before Friday's arrests, at least 35 Brotherhood members were known to be in jail — eight arrested Monday, 19 arrested earlier in the month and eight ordered by a court last week to remain in jail. None of the detainees has been charged.

COLUMN

Anyone for tennis? Not Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin may be back at work, albeit at a rest home, but his doctors have served him with strict instructions to give his favourite sport a rest. Interfax said Friday, Mr. Yeltsin, sidelined by a heart-attack on July 10, left hospital Monday for a rest home outside Moscow, where doctors are permitting him to work and hold court with visitors. But tennis has definitely been given the elbow. When one of his usual tennis partners, Sports Minister Shamil Tarpiyev, went to visit him two days ago and proposed a few games, the burly president had to yield to doctors who said it was too soon to let him loose on court. Mr. Tarpiyev told the news agency Friday. However, he added: "The president told me he would certainly be able to play when he takes holidays in Sochi in the autumn."

Mini-sub records grunts, groans in Loch Ness

LONDON (R) — A mini-submarine hunting for the Loch Ness monster has recorded mysterious grunts and groans from the murky depths of the Scottish lake. The strange noises, picked up on the radio sets of submarine pilot Bill Bolton and Alan Whitfield at their base onshore, lasted for about 30 minutes before fading away. They were picked up some 500 feet (150 metres) beneath the surface on the same radio frequency as the one used at sea by submarines to pick up communications between whales and dolphins. "I have frequently heard the calls of sea mammals when I have done dives in the North Sea and in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans," Mr. Whitfield told reporters. "But this was quite different. It certainly poses a few very interesting questions does it not?" he added. The mini-submarine has been involved in a scientific dive collecting data and shooting video footage of a spectacular Loch Ness underwater canyon. It uses powerful strobe lights to pierce the underwater gloom.

Charles to take steps over royal book

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles will take steps to prevent a former employee from making money by revealing details in a book of his private life with Princess Diana, a spokesman said. The Housekeeper's Diary, based on the diaries of Wendy Berry when she worked at the couple's Highgrove country estate from 1985-1993, went on sale in the United States Friday. Excerpts are also due to be published in the Star, an American magazine. "We will take all steps open to us to ensure that Mrs. Berry does not profit from breaching the confidentiality undertaking," a spokesman for the heir to the British throne said. "If it is true that Wendy Berry is publishing a book about her employment as a housekeeper to the Prince and Princess of Wales, she is in breach of a high court injunction granted in January this year," he added. Like all royal employees, Mrs. Berry had signed a confidentiality clause as part of her contract. The spokesman, who said the prince had not seen the book, did not give details about steps that would be taken and refused to comment on the book's contents.

But we need confidence that they are pulling out. We need to know whether this means (we) are only regressing. The Serb incursion shifted from lines a heart of the end of the world.

House of Representatives. By Sa'eda Kilani. Special to the Jordan Times.

AMMAN — The House of Representatives has approved nine out of 10 articles after a short break from the opposition to the government.

Opposition deputies, rejecting the draft, said it was a reflection of the policy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) private government.

But the opposition fought a losing battle when the House approved the draft law to end boy

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